

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1968

Penalties in the Bugging of Otepka Are Assailed

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9—(AP) The Senate Internal Security subcommittee has accused the State Department of dealing mildly with three of its officials who allegedly bugged the office phone of Otto F. Otepka, the department's demoted security chief.

The subcommittee said in a report released today that the department "allowed two witnesses who had lied to the subcommittee to resign with no prejudicial material in their personnel files to prevent further Government employment, and it retained in its employment one of the trio on its payroll."

Mr. Otepka was demoted, reprimanded and reassigned for having furnished the subcommittee's counsel, J. G. Sourwine, with classified material in 1963.

Senate Panel Scores 'Soft' Treatment of Three Who Allegedly Planted Device

He appealed to the Civil Service Commission after Secretary of State Dean Rusk decided the case last December.

The subcommittee said that, because of the "soft treatment" of the three employes, "the impression has inevitably been created—and only the State Department can undo this impression—that it regards perjury before a committee of Congress as a quite minor matter."

The State Department had no comment.

The three officials were John

Reilly, former deputy assistant secretary for security; Elmer D. Hill, former head of the division of technical services in Mr. Reilly's office; and David I. Belisle, then Mr. Reilly's special assistant.

The subcommittee said Mr. Reilly and Mr. Hill first denied but later admitted that they had installed a listening device in Mr. Otepka's office. Mr. Belisle, who was out of the country when the bug was installed, denied any knowledge of it, but later said he was told about it after his return, the report added.

Mr. Reilly and Mr. Hill were first suspended, then both retired. Mr. Belisle did not resign and is now an administrative officer at the United States Embassy in Bonn.