

Yeoman Denies Leaking Secret Security Papers

By WALLACE TURNER

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SALEM, Ore., Jan. 14 — Yeoman 1st Cl. Charles E. Radford denied repeatedly today that he was the source of leaks from National Security Council files in 1971.

Yeoman Radford is 30 years old, a career specialist in stenography and office procedures who was on the staff of two admirals who were the Navy's liaison officers to the National Security Council. He worked for Rear Adm. Rembrandt C. Robinson and then for Rear Adm. Robert O. Welander, who succeeded to the liaison post when Admiral Robinson was killed in a plane crash.

Yeoman Radford is a converted member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and he knows Jack Anderson, a fellow Mormon, in whose syndicated column in December, 1971, appeared the classified material that revealed some White House papers on the India-Pakistan War. Those columns touched off the investigation by the White House "plumbers."

Other Plumber Actions

The plumbers went on to burglarize the office of Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist, a to influence other acts in the name of security in the Nixon Administration.

Yeoman Radford, a thin man of 6 feet 2 and 135 pounds, said he had been accused of having leaked papers to Mr. Anderson, but that he maintained then and now that he was not guilty. He also denied that he knew of any security leaks to the office of Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

He said he thought this was ridiculous because he knew that Admiral Moorer was privy to all National Security Council matters.

He said he had never been asked to give evidence about security breaches committed by others. He knew of none, he said. To most questions about the investigation of his job as the "Admiral's writer" [stenographer] he responded "No comment."

Mr. Radford, a native of Modesto, Calif., enlisted in the Navy at Reno, Nev., on his 20th birthday—June 9, 1963, after trying college at Sacramento, Calif., and Reno.

After boot camp, he served on submarines based at Pearl Harbor. He became a yeoman—a typist, record keeper, office worker. On re-enlistment, he

asked for embassy duty, and went to New Delhi. There he met and married Tonne Diane Buckles, daughter of the embassy's chief yeoman. They have three children.

In May, 1970, he was transferred to a stenography school and came out with the assignment of "admiral's writer" at the Pentagon.

"I guess we averaged 12 hours work a day," Yeoman Radford said in an interview at the Naval Reserve Armory here where he was transferred last January soon after the investigation of the security leaks began.

He and his admiral would spend about half the time at the Pentagon and half at the National Security Council offices in the Executive Office Building.

He said that Admiral Robinson and later Admiral Welander had dictated their communications to him and that he had access to their files. He also had access to photo-copying machines, he said, and agreed that someone in his position who wanted to do so could have copied secret papers from the files and distributed them to unauthorized persons.

"But I didn't," he said.

It was through his acquaintance with Jack Anderson's parents, whom he had met in India, that he met the columnist, Yeoman Radford said. Even then, they talked face to face only once, and once on the telephone, he said.

"They knew I knew him," he said of the investigators who came around after the security leaks. "I denied that I had done it, and that was the end of it so far as I knew."

He said, of suggestions that he was the person who leaked the material, that "it has to be someone else." He would not say if he had seen during his working hours any of the material that he eventually read in the Anderson columns.

Rhode Island's Revenue Off

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Jan. 14 (AP) — The energy crisis was blamed today for a sharp drop in state revenue from Rhode Island's gasoline tax, which fell \$54,000 below expectations in December. Kevin K. Coleman, state director of administration, said the gasoline tax generated \$2.1-million last month, compared with a goal of \$2.7-million. The receipts were \$40,000 below the amount collected the previous December.