

## Freedom to Travel

The case involving the Harvard historian, Prof. H. Stuart Hughes and his right to travel in Europe without snooping by American embassies has had one useful result. Secretary of State Rusk and Attorney General Katzenbach have been embarrassed into re-viewing the procedures concerning security and freedom of travel for American citizens.

The involved affair is tied up with the controversial Frances Knight, director of the Passport Office; the now dismissed director of the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, Abba Schwartz; the Senate Internal Security subcommittee and its aggressive chief counsel, J. G. Sourwine; the F.B.I., which asked for the "shadowing" of Professor Hughes; the State and the Justice Departments.

That so many Government departments and so many officials and Senators should have been caught up in the simple matter of a professor taking a sabbatical leave in Europe shows that something is seriously wrong with Government procedures. Miss Knight has devoted much of her official career to saying nasty things about her superiors—a habit that must occasion some wonderment about the State Department in foreign ministries. But she was, at least, quite right in saying that if someone with authority would give her instructions on what to do in cases like the F.B.I.'s request for a watch on Professor Hughes, she would follow them. In lieu of clear guidelines and a firm and open policy by the State Department, it has been possible for many years for Miss Knight either to apply her own criteria on traveling Americans or to pass along requests of the kind made by the F.B.I. "as a matter of routine."

In the Hughes case, the embassies in Paris and Moscow were advised to keep an eye on him and report back on what he did. This is a procedure straight out of the McCarthy era. According to Miss Knight, it has been going on for thirty years. It is high time to stop. "The Attorney General agrees with me," Secretary Rusk now says, "that we must give every protection to the legitimate rights and privileges of American citizens in their travels abroad." That is an admirable principle. It should not be too difficult to express in terms Miss Knight can understand.