

DISMISSAL OF FOUR IN G.S.A. IS URGED

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Civil Service Unit Charges Politics in Hiring System

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 8 —The Civil Service Commission has called for the dismissal of four high officials of the General Services Administration and the suspension of four others, a commission spokesman announced today.

In a rare disciplinary action, the commission charged the eight officials with illegally operating a system of hiring employees because of their political influence rather than merit.

The names of the eight are being withheld until they have an opportunity to prove their innocence or ask for a hearing.

But Bernard Rosen, the commission's executive director, said, "We wouldn't be making these charges unless we had substantial and conclusive evidence."

Arthur F. Sampson, the director of the General Services Administration, which is the Federal Government's real estate broker and housekeeper, said he was "dismayed and deeply disturbed by the recommendations of the commission staff."

Calls Action Unwarranted

"We feel, said Mr. Sampson, that the action is "highly inappropriate and unwarranted. He defended his employees asserting that the hiring system was a "long established and legitimate follow-up process to assure responsibility to referrals from Congressional and Administration sources.

A team of Civil Service Commission investigators began last June checking complaints by G.S.A. employees that "political clearance" was necessary to get a promotion in G.S.A. region 3, which includes the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Delaware.

One of the officials charged by the commission is serving in Region 3. The seven others are based in the agency's national office here.

The Republican National Committee, the Committee for the Re-election of the President, Senators and Representatives were reportedly making recommendations for G.S.A. jobs and these applicants were receiving preferential treatment.

The special hiring unit operated within the office of the assistant administrator responsible for administration, according to the commission. Allen G. Kaupinen, a former staff assistant to the President in the White House, has been the assistant administrator since March. The commission, noting that Mr. Kaupinen was in the job only a few months before the investigation started, has given no indication that he was involved in the hiring system.

8 Get Details

Letters were delivered to the eight officials yesterday with details of the charges against them. They have 15 days to respond. If they do not request a hearing, a three-member panel of Civil Service Commissioners will then take final action on them.

Of the four persons recommended for suspension, the commission asked that two be removed for 90 days, one for six days and one for 30 days.

The commission's action is believed to be the first of its kind. Hatch Act violations have resulted in a few individual dismissals, a spokesman said, but there has been "nothing of this scope."