

FULBRIGHT URGES BAN ON U.S.I.A. FILM

Says Use on TV by Senator
Buckley Would Be Illegal

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WASHINGTON, March 29 — Senator J. W. Fulbright, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, asked the Justice Department today to restrain "forthwith" the use of a United States Information Agency film on Senator James L. Buckley's monthly television program to be shown starting this weekend on 12 stations in New York State.

Mr. Fulbright said in a letter to Acting Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst that the proposed use of the U.S.I.A. documentary, "Czechoslovakia 1968," "appears to involve an intent to violate the provisions" of the 1948 law that created the agency.

"The information agency was created for the purpose of the dissemination abroad of information about the United States, its people, and policies," Senator Fulbright said. "It was not created for dissemination of information in the United States."

Response Promised

A Justice Department spokesman acknowledged receipt of the Senator's letter and added: "We will advise him promptly of any action we might take."

A spokesman for Senator Buckley, Conservative-Republican of New York, said the Senator had not seen a copy of the Fulbright letter and therefore could not comment.

Mr. Buckley's tape-recorded monthly program, which is scheduled to be shown in New York City at 10:30 P.M. Saturday by Channel 11, includes the U.S.I.A. documentary and an interview by Senator Buckley with Bruce Herschensohn, director of the agency's division of motion picture and television service. During the interview Mr. Herschensohn accused Senator Fulbright of having a "very simplistic, very naive and stupid" view on the effect of United States propaganda.

Senator Fulbright's letter made no mention of the remarks about him by the agency official.

Fulbright to Ask Ban

After the Buckley program, tape-recorded here Monday, was shown to newsmen yesterday, Senator Fulbright said he would propose a flat prohibition on the domestic use of the agency's material when the Foreign Relations Committee considers legislation next month authorizing the agency's \$200-million budget for the coming fiscal year.

The 15-minute film on Czechoslovakia, which won an Academy Award as the best documentary short of 1969, has been shown extensively overseas. But in line with a long-standing policy against domestic distribution of the information agency's material, the film has never been shown on American television.

According to Buckley aides, the Senator originally tried to get a copy of the film from the agency but was told that in line with its policy and Con-

gressional intent it could not be provided.

However, the Senator was referred to the National Audio Visual Center in the National Archives, which serves as a repository for Government-produced films, a Buckley spokesman said. Charles Ablard, general counsel of the U.S.I.A., explained in a letter to the Senator that his agency recently had entered into an arrangement under which the center could distribute the agency's films domestically so long as they were used for educational purposes.