

Stiffer Loyalty Rules Considered for Government Employees in Key Positions

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 2—The Justice Department and the Civil Service Commission are considering a proposal that would make it easier for the Government to dismiss employees who belong to "terrorist/revolutionary" organizations.

They are also studying a recommendation that would require everyone seeking work in Government jobs that involve responsibilities of "a supervisory, managerial or fiduciary nature" or that "normally lead to such responsibilities" to undergo an extensive

inquiry by investigators before being hired.

These proposals were disclosed by Robert C. Mardian, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Internal Security Division of the Justice Department, in Congressional testimony last week.

This portion of his testimony appears to have got little attention because of other recent recommendations by the Administration relating to internal security.

By executive order President Nixon has given the Subversive Activities Control Board the power to hold hearings to assist in determining what organiza-

tions should be classified as subversive by the Attorney General.

At the same time, the Justice Department has proposed legislation that would give the board subpoena and contempt-finding authority.

The board is an independent, semijudicial agency that was created in 1950. In recent years its work has fallen off almost totally.

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, has asserted that the President's order would result in a "witch hunt" against groups engaged in legitimate dissent.

He sponsored legislation that

would prevent the board from using any of its funds to carry out the executive order, but the provision was struck in a Senate-House conference.

Senator Ervin has since warned that he would seek to defeat the entire \$2-billion money bill for the State, Justice and Commerce Departments because of the dispute, and 27 Senators have expressed support for his position.

The Senate is expected to vote on the bill tomorrow.

Last Thursday, Mr. Mardian told the House Internal Security Committee that court decisions "require that action can only be taken against an em-

ploye who the Government can prove has knowingly involved himself in the illegal conduct of an organization in which he is active."

"These decisions reinforce the need," he went on, "to hire only those individuals who have demonstrated they are loyal and to rectify any mistakes before the expiration of the one-year probationary period."

Thus, Mr. Mardian said, "one of the recommendations presently under consideration is a requirement [for] a full field investigation prior to appointment."

A full field investigation involves inquiries by agents of

the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Civil Service Commission concerning a person's professional, social and personal life.

For people already employed, Mr. Mardian said, "we have been considering a requirement that such employes meet the affirmative standard that their continued employment will promote the efficiency of the service."

Currently, he explained, if an employe is an active member of "a terrorist revolutionary organization, you must prove that he had engaged in criminal or other misconduct or that there is a reasonable doubt as to his loyalty." 29  
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