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# Purge of U.S. Files In S.F. Charged

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## Washington

Three years ago, officials in the San Francisco office of ACTION — the agency that includes the Peace Corps and other volunteer programs — worked all one night to remove incriminating documents from their files.

The disclosure came in a government report released yesterday.

The report was prepared four months ago by the U.S. Civil Service Commission, but no action was taken on it until Representative John Moss (Dem-Sacramento) obtained a copy and released it.

Asked to comment, a commission spokesman said the matter would be referred to the Justice Department to see whether laws against destruction of government documents had been violated.

The commission report charged that personnel records in ACTION's San Francisco office were carefully "purged" to remove evidence that job applicants had to have political clearances before they could be hired.

The report concluded that the removal of documents "was a deliberate attempt to dispose of evidence of improper activities."

The all-night "purge" occurred on April 12, 1972, just after an inquiry into ACTION's hiring practices by Senator Alan Cranston (Dem-Calif.), according to the report.

The removed documents were known as "PMQ sheets" because they listed each candidate's political desirability, minority status, and qualifications.

The report said, "A P-1 rating was highest meaning the candidate must be hired, that his employment would be helpful to the agency (and perhaps the President), and that he should receive priority consideration."

Conversely, a candidate was given the lowest rating—"P-5"—when he was considered politically unreliable or was recommended for a job by an opponent of then-President Nixon, the report declared.

The commission's investigators could not learn whether the documents were destroyed or simply moved to the homes of certain ACTION employees.

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Officials of ACTION said the report would require no corrective action because the alleged abuses happened during a previous administration, whose members have now departed.