

EB100

ADVANCE FOR 5:30 P.M. EST SATURDAY, MARCH 25--NOTE DATE
(530) NY RELAY

SCHWARTZ-KNIGHT

BY ENDRE MARTON

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

(ADVANCE) WASHINGTON, MARCH 25 (AP)-ABBA P. SCHWARTZ, WHO QUIT HIS JOB RECENTLY IN THE COURSE OF "STREAMLINING" EFFORTS AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IS SUSPECTED BY THE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE OF HAVING SOUGHT TO GET RID OF MISS FRANCES KNIGHT, BOSS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PASSPORT OFFICE.

SCHWARTZ RESIGNED IN A HUFF AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE BUREAU OF SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS MARCH 5, WHEN HE WAS TOLD THAT HIS OFFICE WILL BE ABOLISHED. MISS KNIGHT STILL IS AROUND.

WHEN APPEARING BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE IN 1963 AND 1964 SCHWARTZ WAS TOLD BY COUNSEL JULIEN G. SOURWINE THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE HAD INFORMATION ABOUT HIS PLANS TO SACK MISS KNIGHT. SCHWARTZ DENIED THAT, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED HE PROPOSED THAT MISS KNIGHT BE TRANSFERRED BECAUSE SHE WAS "UNCOOPERATIVE."

THE TESTIMONY, A 280-PAGE VOLUME ON "STATE DEPARTMENT SECURITY," WAS RELEASED TONIGHT.

WILLIAM J. CROCKETT, DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION, TESTIFIED SCHWARTZ HAD A "CONTINUING PROBLEM" WITH MISS KNIGHT. "THERE WERE VARIOUS CONSIDERATIONS OF TRANSFERRING MISS KNIGHT TO SOME OTHER OPERATION, BUT NOT IN THE SENSE OF GETTING RID OF HER," CROCKETT SAID.

THE UNDERSECRETARY ACKNOWLEDGED ALSO THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS DETERMINED TO CLIP MISS KNIGHT'S WINGS BY "TAKING POLICY DECISIONS OUT OF THE HANDS OF THE PASSPORT OFFICE AND THE VISA OFFICE."

"IF WE REMOVE FROM THESE OFFICES DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR 'POLICY,' THIS, TOO, WILL TEND TO MAKE THEM MORE OPERATIONAL," CROCKETT TOLD THE SENATORS.

MISS KNIGHT TESTIFIED THAT HER JOB HAD BEEN MADE "VERY MUCH HARDER" BECAUSE OF WHAT SHE CALLED INTERFERENCE BY SCHWARTZ.

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"I WOULD BE WILLING TO STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT IF THIS CONTINUES, WE ARE GOING TO FALL FLAT ON OUR FACE...BECAUSE WE SIMPLY

CANNOT GET THE JOB DONE IF WE ARE CONSTANTLY HARASSED ADMINISTRATIVELY," SHE SAID.

CROCKETT FOUND THIS "AMUSING." HE SAID:

"IT IS AMUSING IN A SENSE TO CONSIDER THE MANY ALLEGATIONS MISS KNIGHT HAS MADE ABOUT THE NON-SUPPORT THAT SHE GETS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT...IT IS A WONDER TO ME SHE STAYS AROUND WHEN SHE IS SO DISSATISFIED WITH HER SUPERIORS."

THOUGH IN TESTIMONY MAY 4, 1965, CROCKETT DENIED THAT THERE WAS A PLAN TO BREAK-UP THE BUREAU OF SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS, HE IN A WAY PREDICTED WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW.

"IF, AT SOME FUTURE DATE, THE WHOLE ADMINISTRATOR COMPLEX OF THE BUREAU WERE ABOLISHED, THEN IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REARRANGE THE TWO MAIN OFFICES, PASSPORT AND VISA," HE SAID. THE STATE DEPARTMENT NOW IS PROPOSING TO CONGRESS THAT THE BUREAU SCHWARTZ HEADED BE ABOLISHED AND THE PASSPORT AND VISA OFFICES PUT DIRECTLY UNDER CROCKETT'S CONTROL.

UNDER THE LAW THE DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY HAS BEEN IN OVER-ALL COMMAND OF THESE TWO OFFICES ANYWAY, DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ASSERT. THE REORGANIZATION PLAN WOULD ONLY ELIMINATE A LAYER: THE BUREAU OF SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS.

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SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK, IN HIS TESTIMONY, SAID MISS KNIGHT "HAS DONE A BRILLIANT JOB, THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT IT."

BUT RUSK SAID ALSO THAT "THERE HAS BEEN TOO MUCH OF A TENDENCY ON THE PART OF THE PASSPORT OFFICE TO OPERATE AS AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY."

SCHWARTZ HAD A ROUGH TIME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WHILE MISS KNIGHT WAS TREATED POLITELY.

SEN. THOMAS J. DODD, D-CONN., THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE, BECAME EXASPERATED AT ONE POINT AND ACCUSED SCHWARTZ OF BEING WILLFULLY EVASIVE.

"YOU HAVE BEEN DELAYING US, FRUSTRATING US, AND HARASSING US," THE SENATOR TOLD THE WITNESS.

MISS KNIGHT, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS PRAISED BY SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS AS "AN OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN GOVERNMENT, WITH A RECORD OF DEVOTION TO HER JOB AND TO THE SECURITY OF HER COUNTRY THAT IS UNEXCELLED." THE PRAISE WAS PART OF A LETTER TO RUSK AND SIGNED BY MOST MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE.

END ADVANCE FOR 6:30 P.M. EST SATURDAY, MARCH 26--NOTE DATE--
SENT MARCH 25

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