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OTEPKA

WASHINGTON, OCT. 22 (AP)-THE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE ANNOUNCED ITS APPROVAL TODAY OF A BILL TO TIGHTEN SECURITY OPERATIONS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

THE MEASURE IS THE OUTGROWTH OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S TWO-YEAR INVESTIGATION OF SECURITY PROCEDURES IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE DISMISSAL, OVER THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S PROTEST, OF OTTO F. OTEPKA, THE DEPARTMENT'S CHIEF SECURITY EVALUATOR.

SEE CIA II
NY TIMES
3 NOV 66

THE REPORT ON THE BILL SAID THAT FROM THIS TESTIMONY "THERE EMERGED EVIDENCE OF NUMEROUS SITUATIONS AND CONDITIONS WHICH, FROM A SECURITY STANDPOINT, REQUIRE CORRECTION."

THE BILL NOW GOES TO THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, PARENT BODY OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE. IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY DIE WITH THE ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS BUT IT CAN BE REOFFERED NEXT YEAR.

OTEPKA, DISMISSED IN 1963, WAS ACCUSED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF GIVING UNAUTHORIZED INFORMATION TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S COUNSEL AND OF SUPPLYING HIM WITH QUESTIONS TO ASK STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS IN THE PROBE OF THEIR SECURITY PROCEDURES.

EARLIER THIS MONTH THE SUBCOMMITTEE PUBLISHED THE LAST OF THE 25 VOLUMES OF TESTIMONY IT TOOK BEHIND CLOSED DOORS. OTEPKA'S APPEAL FROM HIS DISMISSAL STILL IS PENDING AND HE REMAINS ON THE DEPARTMENT'S PAYROLL.

ONE PART OF THE BILL APPROVED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE WOULD REQUIRE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF SECURITY BE STAFFED BY PROFESSIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS.

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THE SUBCOMMITTEE SAID TESTIMONY IT TOOK DOCUMENTED EFFORTS "BY UNSKILLED, INEXPERIENCED AND BIASED OFFICIALS TO 'GET AT' A CAREER OFFICIAL, OTTO OTEPKA, BECAUSE OF PERSONALITY RATHER THAN INCOMPETENCE."

IT SAID THAT UNLESS PROFESSIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS, TRAINED IN EVALUATIONS, ARE KEPT ON THEIR JOBS THE DEPARTMENT'S SECURITY WILL BE IMPAIRED. "FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS SHOULD NOT INVESTIGATE OR EVALUATE EACH OTHER FOR SECURITY PURPOSES," IT ADDED.

THE BILL PROVIDES ALSO THAT, SUBJECT TO SECURITY REGULATIONS ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE, NO OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE PROHIBITED FROM COMMUNICATING ON ANY SUBJECT WITH ANY MEMBER OR COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS.

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OTHER PARTS OF THE BILL WOULD INSURE SECURITY CLEARANCES OF U.S. NATIONALS EMPLOYED BY THE UNITED NATIONS OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND WOULD PROHIBIT THE ABOLITION OF THE JOB OF DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PASSPORT OFFICE OR VISA OFFICE.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE HAS BEEN A STRONG BACKER OF MISS FRANCES G. KNIGHT, DIRECTOR OF THE PASSPORT OFFICE. IT SAID THAT ABOLISHING HER OFFICE HAS BEEN THREATENED, ALTHOUGH AT PRESENT "THIS THREAT APPEARS TO HAVE LESSENED."

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2