

imes 10 Jul 69

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of families.

ie forgotten, the
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d rightly so for close
ary of service to aban-
nd neglected children,
advised that we had
d our minds about nat-
amilies.

gal interpreter - champions
he new thinking gave in-
dual examples of how our
nking had changed. "Change
ow," became "discharge now"
and private agencies tried.

Perhaps Roxanne Felumero's
death was the result of our
city's effort to change over-
night. Roxanne should be left
to point the finger. She might
ask us, in the person of our
institutions, to be calmer and
hesitant in our criticisms of
one another. She might invert
the questioning and ask our
institutions to be as patient
with each other as we some-
times ask families under our
care to be with their members
when change occurs.

DONALD J. YOUNG
Jackson Heights, N. Y.
June 30, 1969

Otepka Role Defended

To the Editor:

Your June 26 editorial on
Otto Otepka's vindication is dis-
appointing and not up to the
usual high standards of The
Times. Mr. Otepka was a hard-
nosed security boss and—until
the advent of the Kennedy Ad-
ministration—his security office
had been one of the most highly
professional organizations in
the Federal Government.

In 1958 Otto Otepka received
the State Department's Meritor-
ious Service Award for his out-
standing work. Your editorial
stated that in the course of
the Senate debate Edward
Kennedy of Massachusetts re-
called that the Civil Service
Commission had upheld former

time

Secretary of State Dean Rusk's
demotion of Otepka for handing
raw security files to a Senate
committee without permission.
Without permission from whom,
may I ask?

The flimsy charge against Mr.
Otepka was based on a 1948
Executive Order issued by Presi-
dent Truman which says that
files on Government employes
are not to be given to members
of Congress, except through
the President. However, that
same year, 1948, Congress
passed a law (Title V, Section
52 of the United States Code),
which reads: "The rights of
persons employed in the civil
service of the United States . . .
to furnish information to either
House of Congress or any com-
mittee thereof, shall not be
denied or interfered with."

Furthermore, in 1958, a con-
current resolution was passed
by both houses of Congress
which reads: "Any person in
Government service should put
loyalty to highest moral prin-
ciples and country above loy-
alty to persons, party or Gov-
ernment department."

JAMES J. CONLEY
Boston, July 1, 1969