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Between the Lines

Corso 'Dossier' an Unsigned Memo

U. S. Deprived of Another Experienced Investigator

Washington—The use of raw, "unevaluated" files from the FBI has been initiated by the Justice Department. In an unprecedented violation of

civil liberties, Philip Corso, who retired as an Army lieutenant colonel after a distinguished career in government posts, is the victim of a dossier of gossip and innuendo furnished by Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach. The dossier was handed Rep. Emanuel Celler (D-N. Y.) who wanted it for political purposes.



The effort to discredit Corso is part of a campaign launched by his powerful enemies in the Executive Branch of government. They knew he had compiled from first-hand knowledge, detailed records of events as they transpired within the supersecret National Security Council over a ten-year period. He knows how and why the White House, the State Department and our intelligence agencies have been penetrated by dangerous security risks. He has never made this information public but testified in executive session three years ago before the Senate Internal Security subcommittee. As a result, attempts have been made through secret channels to bar him from future government posts where his proven talents in guiding investigations might expose subversion.

'Harassment' Tactics

For the three years since his retirement from the military, these elements have sought to harass Corso by a word of mouth campaign and the instigation of repeated investigations ordered by the Central Intelligence Agency and by some civilian officials in the Pentagon. These cov-

ers have sought to bar Corso, who has nothing to hide. He would jokingly telephone the agents to invite

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them to interview him in person.

In January of this year, the "web weavers" decided on older methods when Rep. Michael Feighan (D-Ohio), chairman of the Immigration subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, sought to place Corso on the committee's staff. The proposed appointment aroused the concern of Rep. Celler, chairman of the Judiciary Committee. Elements close to Celler are fearful that Corso might uncover further details concerning the malodorous immigration rackets involving Communists. The New York congressman produced what he thought was a trump card: the dossier from the Justice Department, furnished him last November.

'Only a Memo'

This supposed "dossier" was only an unsigned memorandum not even written on official stationery. It accused Corso, among other things; of being the source of a vicious rumor that Lee Harvey Oswald, President Kennedy's assassin, was in the pay of the FBI. The truth was that Corso had learned that a communist in Texas was circulating such a rumor and reported this to the proper authorities. Nevertheless, without giving Corso a chance to explain, Celler showed committee members the memorandum and said that he could not approve Corso's appointment because it disclosed that he was "unreliable."

Rep. Feighan hit the ceiling and by his rebuttal showed the committee that the memorandum's contents were so patently false that a quorum of his subcommittee unanimously endorsed Corso's appointment to a committee staff job. Celler refused to sign Corso's payroll voucher. As a result, Feighan placed Corso on his personal staff.

'Leaked' to Press

It is this memorandum being conducted in secret until last week. Then the contents of the memorandum

were "leaked" to friendly columnists. In addition, Corso was accused of being a "private investigator" paid "out of private funds" despite the fact that he is being paid monthly from government funds by U. S. Treasury checks through the House Disbursing Office.

This is not the first time that supposedly derogatory portions of selected and twisted information have been "leaked" to the press for political purposes. Carefully selected information was released to certain "cooperative" newsmen from State Department and Air Force files on Don B. Reynolds to discredit his testimony in the Bobby Baker case. This information in the form of a Justice Department report was extracted from his personnel enlistment files which legally are inviolable.

What is shocking in these cases is the silence of these supposedly "liberal" persons who were so concerned about protecting the rights of Communists during the McCarthy era. Surely those who expose wrong doing and treason in government also have civil rights.