

# Otepka in Limbo, but Security Case Is Still Explosive

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By CECIL HOLLAND  
Star Staff Writer

At about 10 minutes before noon on June 27, 1963, Otto Otepka was summoned into the office of John Reilly, his superior in the State Department's Office of Security.

At that meeting, Mr. Reilly told Mr. Otepka, 47-year-old Government career man, that he was being detached from his job as chief of the security evaluation division and was being assigned to write a handbook on security.

Mr. Reilly then went with Mr. Otepka to his office and, as they walked down the corridor, according to Mr. Otepka, "doors popped open" all over the place.

In Mr. Otepka's office six of Mr. Reilly's own men joined them. They demanded and got the combinations of all safes. The locks were changed and Mr. Otepka was denied access to all his records, including personal papers.

## Seeks Explanation

After the lunch hour, Mr. Otepka went back to Mr. Reilly. He demanded an explanation.

According to Mr. Otepka, Mr. Reilly "shook his finger in my face," and reminded him of an earlier conference in which he had stressed "institutional loyalty." To this, Mr. Otepka says, his response was that "my first loyalty is to my country."

"You're punishing me for telling the truth on Capitol Hill. I won't take back a word of it," Mr. Otepka added.

The upshot was that Mr. Otepka found himself in an office with no material to carry out his assigned task of writing a security handbook.

For a while he got the Congressional Record. Then this was stopped. At his insistence, he got it again.

The State Department information that came to him consisted of announcements of personnel changes, parties and the activities of bowling teams.

## Shunned By Associates

In time it became clear to Mr. Otepka. He had been consigned to that "limbo large and broad" and for the most part "unpeopled and untrod."

Associates avoided coming to his office. They passed him in the hall with the barest nod. As in most offices, the State Department is a social sort of place. If anyone is reassigned somewhere else, there is often a luncheon to wish him well in his new post.

Mr. Otepka hasn't been invited to any luncheons for anyone since his difficulties began.

He believes his office is "bugged" and his telephone lines are tapped. If anyone calls, except on the most perfunctory matter—including his lawyer—Mr. Otepka takes the number. Then he goes elsewhere to call back.

It's the same at his Wheaton (Md.) home. There are strange noises on his phone every time it rings. A friend expert in electronics, has told him this indicates it might be tapped.

## Charged Laxity in Security

But there are few occasions which require Mr. Otepka to leave his home to return a call. People who used to call him have stopped doing so.

What caused all this was Mr.

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