

63 SECURITY RISKS QUIT IN STATE DEPT.

BY WILLARD EDWARDS
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)
Washington, April 24 — Three

senior officers in the foreign service were among 63 security risks uncovered by the state department in 1963, according to secret testimony made public today.

All 63 employes, exposed as potential sources of classified information to enemy agents, were permitted to resign after being confronted with the evidence against them. None chose to fight the charges.

Raymond W. Laugel, acting deputy assistant secretary in the state department's office of security, gave this fragmentary report in closed-door testimony last Feb. 4. He was questioned by the House appropriations subcommittee headed by Rep. John J. Rooney [D., N. Y.].

63 Not Identified

Laugel was not asked to name the employes removed from the rolls. But he said all of them fell within the terms of executive order 10450 which applies "to people engaging in espionage, sabotage, and to other loyalty factors, sexual perversion, homosexuality, drug addiction, undesirable associates, excessive drinking, psychiatric, etc."

In a partial breakdown of the 63 security risks, Laugel said 36 were in the foreign service, 27 in the Washington office of the state department.

Forty-five were found to be homosexuals who are regarded as security risks because they

can be blackmailed by enemy agents into becoming spies.

Of the remaining 18, Laugel said, 6 were psychiatric cases, 5 were excessive drinkers, 3 engaged in "immoral conduct," 2 were involved with "undesirable associates," I falsified his job application, and 1 was found guilty of misuse of funds.

Otepka Former Chief

The phrase "undesirable associates" frequently covers association with Communists.

The three senior foreign officers were homosexuals, Laugel testified. Of the remaining 42 accused of homosexuality, 15 were junior and staff officers, both at home and abroad, and 25 occupied clerical positions.

The office of security, where Laugel is the temporary head, has been under investigation by the Senate internal security subcommittee for more than a year. Its former chief of evaluations, Otto F. Otepka, was dismissed by the state department when he gave information about lax security procedures to the subcommittee. Later, John F. Reilly, the security chief, and one of his assistants, was forced to resign because of false testimony against Otepka. The latter is fighting his dismissal but the state department has delayed giving him a hearing.

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