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DRAMA BEGINS TO UNFOLD IN OTEPKA CASE

Senate Unit Releases Secret Testimony

BY WILLIAM MOORE
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)
Washington, Jan. 2—The in-

side story of cloak and dagger drama in the state department began coming out today when the Senate internal security subcommittee made public testimony it had taken behind closed doors in the case of Otto F. Otepka.

Otepka is a veteran security officer who has attempted to block the progress of state department employes he regarded as security risks.

The department is seeking to oust him from his \$16,935 a year post, and the subcommittee is opposing the ouster.

Changes His Story

The testimony made public is that of John F. Reilly, former deputy assistant secretary of state for security, who first denied ordering Otepka's office telephone tapped and then admitted it.

Reilly has admitted that he had Otepka's trash bag kept under surveillance and found in it evidence that Otepka had been giving information secretly to the subcommittee.

Reilly disclaimed the wire tapping in testimony Aug. 6, but after discussing his testimony with Secretary of State Dean Rusk changed his story in testimony Nov. 15.

On his first appearance, Reilly was asked by J. G. Sourwine, subcommittee counsel, "Have you ever engaged in or ordered the bugging or tapping or otherwise compromising

telephone or private conversations in the office of an employe of the state department?"

Reilly replied, "No sir."

Admits Tapping Order

On his second appearance, Reilly admitted having ordered a wire tapping device installed on Otepka's telephone.

Asked if he had not tried to mislead the subcommittee, Reilly said that he considered the questions asked by Sourwine at the first session as "in the nature of cross-examination."

Reilly, a lawyer, went on, "To that extent, I felt that I should answer the questions asked, which witnesses on cross-examination normally do, and not volunteer."

"Are you telling us," Sourwine asked, "that the reason we did not get all the information you had is because the right questions were not asked?"

"Yes sir," Reilly replied.

Comments on Expression

Reilly then commented on the expression on Sourwine's face and Sen. Thomas Dodd [D., Conn.] said: "He is shocked. So am I. I don't know what you see on my face. But you ought to see something. Or on anyone else's face that heard that answer."

Both Dodd and Sen. John McClellan [D., Ark.], the subcommittee chairman, accused Reilly of having been out to "get" Otepka.

Sourwine asked Reilly, "Do you have any doubt that it is the department's present policy to get rid of Otepka?"

"I think that is quite clear," Reilly responded.

Reilly denied having set out

to "get" Otepka, and said that it appeared Otepka had been out to get him.

Decipher Carbon Papers

Among the finds made by the department sleuths in Otepka's trash bag—a "burn bag" in department parlance, were seven sheets of carbon paper. The typing on them was deciphered and found to be what Reilly said were questions that Otepka had sent to Sourwine to be used in interrogating Reilly.

Reilly said the questions were "designed to harass Reilly," and that Sourwine asked them when Reilly first testified.

Reilly's questions sought in vain to learn who were "the powers" in the department who wanted Otepka's scalp.

Reilly said that after he discussed his first testimony with Secretary Rusk, Rusk ordered him to send the subcommittee a letter telling about the wire tapping.

No One Listened

Explaining why he had not told the whole story the first time, Reilly said no one actually had listened in on Otepka's telephone and that Otepka's conversations thus had not been "compromised."

Rep. William C. Cramer [R., Fla.] charged in a House speech Dec. 19 that Rusk is the man behind the effort to drive Otepka out.

Reilly resigned after his second appearance on the witness stand, and Cramer said Reilly was "let out," not because of what he had done but because he "got caught at it."