

Capital Letter:

Will Sizzler Sing Rusk?

CPYRGHT

By RUTH MONTGOMERY

WASHINGTON: Secretary of State Rusk may need the powers of a modern-day Daniel to emerge unscathed from the den of angry lions he is at last confronting today behind closed doors on Capitol Hill.

The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, which for weeks has been gnashing its teeth over the department's attempt to rid itself of Miss Frances Knight, director of the Passport Office, and Otto Otepka, chief of the Division of Security Evaluations, has sent Rusk a blistering indictment of his security division.



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The two-page memorandum, whose contents have not previously been revealed, was unanimously approved by the full Judiciary Committee before forwarding it to Rusk.

This correspondent has obtained a copy of the document, whose contents Rusk is being called upon to answer in secret session. Among the official charges are these:

-- Security risk cases have been covered up, and security risks permitted to work in the State Department under the Kennedy Administration. -- Reports of security clearances, or emergency clearances, have been granted as favors, or as a result of pressure.

-- Derogatory information about State Department employees under investigation by the Civil Service Com-

mission was deliberately removed from the files, and no hint given that such information existed.

-- The department, in defiance of U.S. law, has been issuing passports to Communists.

-- Miss Knight has been and is being subjected to a campaign of deliberate harassment from her State Department superiors.

-- Consistent efforts have been made over a period of two years or more to get rid of Otepka, the last professional security officer remaining in the department since the Rusk tenure began.

-- The changing of locks on Otepka's safes and files and the removal of his duplicating machine, the instructions to personnel in the division not to give information to Otepka, instructions to Otepka not to enter the Evaluations Division area, and Otepka's physical transfer to a desk at the end of the hall without stenographic assistance, were moves designed to humiliate Otepka and discredit him.

-- Otepka's office was "bugged" with an electronic listening device.

Rusk received the sizzling Senate memorandum Oct. 1, but instead of agreeing to testify, insisted the committee first turn over to him all memoranda and testimony given by State Department employees, and the transcripts of all executive sessions of the committee.

Not until after President Kennedy told a news conference that Rusk was willing to testify did the Secretary notify the committee that he would be available for questioning.