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**THE STATE DEPARTMENT
COVER-UP**

The Senate judiciary committee has taken the unprecedented action of dispatching a United States senator to deliver by hand to Secretary of State Rusk a letter from the full committee. The letter is described as commanding the secretary to cease obstructing an investigation of frightening breaches of security within the department or accept the consequences of public exposure.

The letter was carried to New York City, where Rusk is conferring with the soviet and British foreign ministers, by Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, vice chairman of the Senate internal security subcommittee. Mr. Dodd was accompanied by the subcommittee counsel. The senator also delivered a covering letter from Sen. James O. Eastland, chairman of the judiciary committee, informing Secretary Rusk that the committee intended to meet the challenge posed by a state department order forbidding employes to testify.

The department has brought charges against one officer who did testify before the subcommittee. The witness, Otto F. Otepka, chief of the division of evaluations in the department's office of security, is accused of disclosing to the subcommittee department reports which were classified as "confidential." It is understood that he detailed evidence of suspected disloyalty which appalled senators.

The judiciary committee has notified Secretary Rusk that it will defend Otepka's right to testify under provisions of the United States code and in conformity with concurrent resolutions of the House and Senate adopted in 1959. Mr. Rusk has responded that he will appear before the committee and present his department's view.

In its letter to the secretary, the committee has charged that a high official of the department gave false testimony to the subcommittee under oath. The whole pattern of interference with the subcommittee's inquiry suggests that the state department knows that it is culpable and is trying to suppress a scandal which could rock the administration.

This is not the first time that an attempt has been made to push Otepka out of the department. Two years ago the administration announced that 25 trained security agents were to be hacked out of the department's bureau of security and consular affairs for reasons of "economy." Their two chiefs, Otepka and Elmer Hipsley, were to be ditched with them. Because of an uproar in Congress, Otepka was permitted to keep his title, but his duties were limited.

It might be thought that the administration would be eager to expose security risks, to get rid of them, and perhaps to prosecute them. But it is not. The reason for this strange attitude is that President Kennedy, Atty. Gen. Kennedy, and other leaders of the New Frontier are on record as having said that there was little or no danger of internal subversion. In their view, communism was strictly a menace from outside, altho these days they are not even acting as if they believed that.

So it is embarrassing to have public servants challenging the official thesis by turning up instances of disloyalty within the administration and imparting the information to a Senate body which has been zealous in exposing subversive infiltration of the government. What would become of the argument that there is nothing to investigate if another Alger Hiss scandal were brought to light?