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# Senators Dig Into the Otepka Case

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The Senate internal security subcommittee has pried open a real can of worms in its investigation of the State Department's move to discredit and oust Otto Otepka, 48, chief of the evaluation division in the department's office of security.

In digging into the Otepka case, the Senate probe has uncovered a backstage report within the State Department to clear the way for a number of former security risks, including Alger Hiss, to worm their way back onto the government's payroll as either employees or consultants.

According to sworn testimony before the subcommittee, one of the central figures in this maneuvering is Harlan Cleveland, assistant secretary of state for international affairs.

Cleveland touched off the bitter security row within the department by appointing a number of persons with questionable security backgrounds to an advisory committee to study the staffing of Americans on international organizations.

According to the testimony, Cleveland also made inquiries as to whether it would be possible to bring Hiss, a former State Department official convicted of perjury to conceal espionage, back into the department.

Otepka, one of the department's outstanding security officers, was shocked over Cleveland's activities that led to a series of blistering reports

to his superiors, including one that was routed through channels to McGeorge Bundy, the President's chief White House adviser on foreign policy.

One of these reports included a detailed "box score" of persons with questionable security background that Cleve-



Bundy

land had either brought into the department or was in the process of trying to obtain job clearance for.

When Cleveland was tipped off that he was being watched, he retaliated swiftly by having John F. Reilly, deputy assistant secretary for security, place Otepka under surveillance. This was quietly arranged through the office of Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy, a personal friend of Reilly.

With quiet but ruthless efficiency, Otepka was then removed from security operations. His phone was bugged and he was placed under close observation after it was learned that Senate investigators had questioned him, under

subpoena, about security risks in the department.

Charges of "misconduct," involving the alleged turning over of documents to the Senate subcommittee, were filed against Otepka on Sept. 23 by John Ordway, chief of the personnel operations division. Otepka was given until today to answer, but his attorney, Robert Robb, secured a 10-day extension.

According to the State Department's own confidential report, most of the evidence upon which the "charges" are based came from Reilly's surreptitious examination of Otepka's classified "trash bag," in which he placed security material and other papers for destruction.

According to the report, evidence was found that Otepka had furnished "a copy of a classified memorandum concerning the processing of appointments of the advisory committee on international organizations staffing to Mr. J. G. Sourwine, staff director of the Senate subcommittee for internal security. This memorandum concerns the loyalty of employees or prospective employees of the department within the meaning of the Presidential directive of March 13, 1948."

The report also charged that Otepka was responsible "for the declassification of a document containing classified information about security risks within the department."