

Departmental Hearing For Otepka Postponed

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A State Department hearing for Otto F. Otepka, a security officer under orders of dismissal, has been postponed until Feb. 9, it was learned yesterday. The hearing had been scheduled to begin today.

An informed source said the delay was at the request of Otepka's attorney in the expectation that transcripts of a series of closed inquiries by the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee would be made available by that time. The testimony before the subcommittee has not been disclosed.

Otepka was ordered dismissed more than a year ago on charges involving unauthorized use of confidential documents. The charges grew out of his testimony before the subcommittee in an investigation of

State Department security practices.

Involved in the case was the emergency clearance of about 150 persons during the first two years of the Kennedy administration as against five under former President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Otepka, it is reported, opposed the emergency clearances.

Otepka has remained on the State Department payroll pending a hearing on his appeal.

However, he was removed from his position as chief of the evaluation division of the department's Office of Security, denied the use of his old office and given only nominal duties to perform.

The latest was one of a series of delays in the hearing, all at Otepka's request. Earlier it had been scheduled to begin Nov. 17.