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Another Security Scandal

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The majority of the papers barely mentioned it, but last week probers on the Senate Internal Security subcommittee unearthed another major security scandal which rocked the highest echelons of the State Department.

What had alarmed the subcommittee was new information that 800 potential security risks—some of them possibly spies—might still be in the State Department, even at the policy-making level.

Sources close to the subcommittee revealed that Otto Otepka, the top-line security officer fired by the department last year, had been relieved from a supersensitive security job in early 1961. That job was to screen carefully the records of some 800 potential security risks, 250 of them considered "serious" cases.

The evidence now indicates that the Kennedy Administration, after stopping Otepka from working further on the special list of 800, pigeonholed the entire project—actually elevating many on the list to important jobs.

Thus, as a result of a deliberate Democratic policy, many of these potential security risks are in the top ranks of government today.

A highly placed authority tells *Human Events* that at least one of the "potentials" has been forming policy for the JFK-LBJ Administration on both the Congo and, more recently, Zanzibar.

The State Department has acted in a way to confirm the authoritative reports. A key department official last week, for example, refused to divulge to members of the Senate subcommittee just how many of these potential risks might still be on the department payroll in strategic positions.

□ The original list of 800, with accompanying report, had been drawn up as far back as 1956 under the late Scott McLeod, then administrator of the Office of Security.

McLeod had urged special attention to the list for fear one of the names was another "Alger Hiss." Because of legal complications, the Eisenhower Administration didn't go full speed ahead on the list until October 1960, when Otepka was assigned to screen the original names plus some additional ones.

A breakdown of the derogatory data by the security office in 1956 revealed that the 800 included 648 with Communist activities and associations three suspected of being spies and 94 considered homosexuals. A sizable number, said McLeod, are in "critical intelligence slots in the department" or on "top level boards and committees."

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• One of the few reporters to comment last week on this affair, Willard Edwards of the Chicago *Tribune*, noted that the McLeod report was, ironically, prepared 18 months after the "Senate condemnation of the late Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy of Wisconsin, who had been stirring the nation for four years with his charges of Communist infiltration in the State Department."