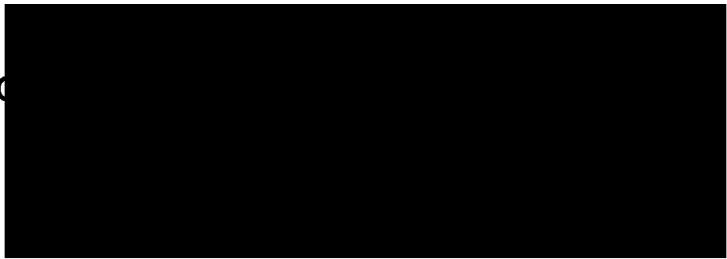


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# The Miami Herald

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## Otepka Non-Confidential Case

It would appear that Rep. William Cramer enjoys beating a dead horse. He is accusing Secretary of State Dean Rusk of being the man behind the firing of Otto Otepka as a security officer for the Department of State. Cramer bases his charge on a "confidential memorandum from an unreach-able source." But you don't need such mysterious information to make the charge against Secretary Rusk. Mr. Otepka was fired for an unlawful

act. He gave classified material to persons who were not supposed to have it. The fact those persons worked for the Senate Internal Security subcommittee does not alter the case. Since Dean Rusk is responsible for the conduct of all State Department employees, it should not be difficult to figure out it was he who fired Mr. Otepka.

The executive branch of government is protected by the Constitution in the running of its own affairs. The firing of an insubordinate employe certainly falls within that protection.

If the Senate subcommittee felt it should see the classified material in State Department files, it should have asked Secretary Rusk for it. That would have been better than getting it smuggled out the back door.

Had the reverse happened, had a Senate employe disclosed confidential committee data to unauthorized persons, the cries of outrage on Capitol Hill would have echoed coast to coast. And the Senate employe would have been out of a job in a hurry.

If Mr. Otepka has a case, it should be decided through a civil service hearing, not with mutterings of a confidential memorandum.

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