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## Too Much Smoke In Foggy Bottom

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To the right, columnist David Lawrence brings up the case of Otto Otepka, director of security for the State Department, who was fired "because he testified honestly before the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security".

Editor Jack Kilpatrick of the Richmond News Leader had taken up the cudgels for this career security officer weeks ago.

As details come out, and they are leaking out drop by smelly drop, they demand fuller explanations to satisfy the public's right to know why this career man with a record of "excellent" in every category, has been sniped at, listened to and picked at until finally he was dismissed out of hand.

Otepka has discharged his highly sensitive job with uncommon efficiency. He is a stickler for detail and a follower of the letter of the law. When his recommendations as to the security characteristics were not sufficiently bad to warrant removal of a politically undesirable official (no matter how high his other credentials) Otepka refused to change them to suit his superiors in the State Department.

His reputation in this most important post was that of a calm, deliberate, articu-

late and cautious man. A State Department report made in 1960 noted, "To extremely broad knowledge of law he adds perspective, balance and good judgment."

Otepka is accused of giving Congressmen, through a Senate Committee hearing, information marked "confidential" and of preparing questions for a Senate Committee counsel to ask in an investigation of the State Department's Cuban policies.

Understandably, the State Department is trying to cover, as much as possible, the fiasco that occurred when the Central Intelligence Agency invaded the policy-making provinces of the President and the military responsibilities of the military services. Surely the State Department was upset about what it thought was "inside information" given to a body if that information was given to the investigators by one of its own staff men.

But the State Department has forgotten that Otepka worked for the Congress, too, and for the U. S. citizenry, first of all.

Should his interest in the Senate hearings cost him his job after a brilliant career?

This is suitable material for a full-scale investigation by the appropriate committee of the Senate.

This firing demands some answers.