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## Otepka Says Truth Put Job in Peril

By Willard Edwards

Chicago Tribune Press Service

A veteran State Department security officer charged yesterday that he was facing dismissal because he told the truth when questioned by Senate investigators.

Otto F. Otepka, chief of the division of evaluations, Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, filed a formal reply to charges accusing him of conduct unbecoming a State Department officer.

"I hold that when one is called upon to speak, he must speak the whole truth; he must not attempt to pervert or suppress the truth by concealment, evasion, half-truths, or misleading silence," he declared.

Otepka expects to be ousted Oct. 23. He then is expected to ask the Civil Service Commission for a hearing, which must be given him.

In his lengthy reply, Otepka reviewed the case that has made him the central figure in a clash between the State Department and the Senate Judiciary Committee over security rules in the Department. The Department claims Otepka acted improperly in providing the subcommittee with suggested questions to be put to other department officials.

President Kennedy said last week that Secretary of State Dean Rusk was ready to testify. The Committee, which has been seeking Rusk as a witness since July, had just received a letter from him asserting his unwillingness to testify until he was provided with all the evidence, including private papers and memoranda, gathered in an inquiry into security procedures in his Department.

Another letter was sent to Rusk, noting the President's statement and renewing the demand that he appear as a witness.

Otepka's defense statement noted that the Secretary in 1961 had taken action identical to that for which Otepka faces discharge.

Rusk permitted Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.), Vice Chairman of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, to examine "certain documents in confidence" in connection with the case involving William W. Wieland, a State Department officer.

If Rusk could disclose documents from Wieland's security file to the Internal Security Subcommittee, why was it improper for Otepka to disclose two comparatively "innocuous" memorandums to the same Subcommittee, Otepka asked.

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