

# Trash of Otepka Searched, Letter Charging Him Reveals

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A cloak-and-dagger game inside the security offices of the State Department came to light today when The Star obtained a copy of the letter charging Security Evaluator Otto F. Otepka with passing material on loyalty cases to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

Secretaries and other associates in Mr. Otepka's office searched his trash for three months, the letter revealed, to obtain evidence against him.

Mr. Otepka has been the chief evaluator of security risks in the State Department in both the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations.

On September 23 he was notified by John Ordway, chief of the Personnel Operations Division in the State Department that he would be removed from his post in 30 days. Thirteen charges were contained in Mr. Ordway's letter.

## Outlines Methods

The letter details how the State Department obtained its information on which the charges were based in these words:

"... During the period of March 13, 1963 to June 16, 1963, Mr. John F. Reilly, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Security, caused the following procedures to be instituted:

"(a) Mrs. Joyce M. Schmelzer secretary to Mr. Frederick V. Traband, Supervisory Personnel Security Specialist, periodically observed your classified trash bag (hereinafter referred to as 'burn bag') which was in the possession of your secretary, Mrs. Eunice Powers. Mrs. Schmelzer and Mrs. Powers were located in the same room and across from one another.

"(b) When Mrs. Schmelzer saw that your burn bag was full, she would ask Mrs. Powers if she wanted her (Mrs. Schmelzer) to take your burn bag to a Department Mail Room with Mr. Traband's.

"(c) When Mrs. Powers accepted Mrs. Schmelzer's offer, Mrs. Schmelzer would inform Mr. Traband and Mr. Traband would then call Mr.

(Joseph E.) Rosetti, Supervisory Security Specialist, or Mr. (Terrence) Shea, Supervisory General Investigator, if Mr. Rosetti was not available, and inform him that your burn bag was being delivered to the Mail Room.

"(d) While carrying your burn bag and Mr. Traband's to the Mail Room, Mrs. Schmelzer would mark your burn bag with a red 'X' (with a crayon or pencil mark) and deposit both burn bags in the Mail Room, Room 3437.

"(e) Mr. Rosetti or Mr. Shea, and on one occasion, Mr. Robert McCarthy, Supervisory Security Specialist, would obtain your burn bag from the Mail Room within five to 10 minutes after Mrs. Schmelzer left it there and would turn it over to Mr. Reilly or Mr. (David I.) Belisle (Special Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Security), in their office, Room 3811. (On one occasion when Mrs. Powers herself took your burn bag to the Mail Room, Messrs. Rosetti and Shea picked it up from the Mail Room immediately after Mrs. Powers deposited it there.) Your burn bag was then transferred to Mr. Reilly's brief case.

"(f) Mr. Reilly's brief case was then taken by Mr. Shea to Room 1410, 2612A or 3811 for examination of its contents. Your burn bag was inspected by Mr. Shea either alone or with Mr. Belisle and/or Mr. Rosetti.

"(g) The contents of your burn bags were carefully examined. All carbon paper or copies were read by turning the carbon side toward the light thus allowing the paper to be read from the back. Torn pieces of paper were grouped together and then pieced together to make readable documents. One-time typewriter ribbons were also read on occasion.

"During the course of inspecting the contents of your burn bag on May 29, 1963, a typewriter ribbon was retrieved. This ribbon has been read and the contents are reproduced as Exhibit B. Information contained therein will be referred to specifically in some of the charges listed below."

## Details 13 Charges

The letter then details 13 charges against Mr. Otepka, several of them accusing him of conduct "unbecoming an officer of the Department of State." He was accused of passing classified information concerning the processing of security clearances of department appointees to J. G. Sourwine, chief counsel of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

A 1948 presidential directive prohibits disclosure of information on loyalty and security-risk cases outside the executive branch.

Mr. Otepka is also accused of improperly declassifying and "mutilating" a confidential document from the State Department to McGeorge Bundy, President Kennedy's special assistant on national security affairs.

Another charge accuses Mr. Otepka of preparing questions for Mr. Sourwine to ask State Department witnesses in a security case.

The State Department gave Mr. Otepka 10 days to answer the charges, then extended this period 10 days, until October 13. He is scheduled to be put on a no-pay status October 23.