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MORE TESTIMONY ON OTEPKA ISSUED

Senate Unit Gives Details in Dismissal Case

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7 (AP)

—More details of the State Department's alleged undercover efforts to prove Otto F. Otepka disloyal to the department were made public tonight by the Senate Internal Security subcommittee.

These included a nocturnal safe opening, telephone tapings and clandestine examination of "burn bags" used to dispose of discarded but classified printed matter.

Although testimony published in the volume released tonight—the third in a series from the subcommittee—was taken in secret, the major material in it had previously been disclosed during the protracted controversy over Mr. Otepka's dismissal by the State Department on Nov. 5, 1963.

The department charged him with "conduct unbecoming an officer of the Department of State." He appealed his dismissal through department channels and the case still is pending with Mr. Otepka retaining his title and pay as chief of the division of evaluations.

Hearing Scheduled

A department hearing on his appeal has been postponed repeatedly at the request of Mr. Otepka's counsel and now is set for Oct. 11.

Several members of Congress, including some in the security subcommittee, are challenging the dismissal and accusing the department of persecuting Mr. Otepka for cooperating with the subcommittee in its investigation of security affairs.

The department takes the position that Mr. Otepka went beyond the limits of proper cooperation by voluntarily making classified information available to Jay Sourwine, subcommittee counsel, and aiding in the drawing up of questions designed to embarrass his department colleagues.

Activities of department officials to obtain evidence against Mr. Otepka included the tapping of his phone, which caused an uproar in 1963 and resulted in the resignation of two security officers who first denied and then admitted that wires had been connected to Mr. Otepka's office phone.

Assistant Secretary Involved

One of them was John F. Reilly, then deputy assistant secretary for security. Mr. Otepka charged in a letter to the State Department Nov. 14, 1963, that Mr. Reilly had been carried away by his "overzealous attempts to build a case against me."

Mr. Reilly, in his testimony on Aug. 6, 1963, firmly denied that he had ordered the tapping of Mr. Otepka's phone. Then, on Nov. 6 he "amplified" his testimony in a statement to the subcommittee admitting that Mr. Otepka's phone was tapped, but the tap had been disconnected after 48 hours when a test showed it was unworkable.

Eavesdropping became unnecessary anyway, Mr. Reilly's statement said, when the examination of the burned bags revealed that "Mr. Otepka had furnished certain material to Mr. Sourwine."

Shortly after, on Nov. 18, 1963, Mr. Reilly and Elmer D. Hill, chief of the division of technical services, resigned. Their resignation followed a suggestion by Senator Thomas J. Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut, vice chairman of the subcommittee, that the State Department, instead of discharging Mr. Otepka, dismiss Mr. Reilly and Mr. Hill.

Several security officers testified about Mr. Reilly's order to check Mr. Otepka's burn bags. Mr. Reilly, Terence J. Shea testified, "was looking for anything transmitting information in connection with this committee."

The bags, a total of about 14, were taken to Mr. Reilly's office during a period of several months. They contained, said Joseph E. Rosetti, security chief on the division of domestic operations, "classified papers which Mr. Reilly was interested in."

Mr. Otepka's safe was opened at night, again on Mr. Reilly's orders, by a security office using a high-speed drill.