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Rogers-Rooney

Clash Looms

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Rimestad Appointment Said To Head Off Reforms

William P. Rogers, the new Secretary of State, has generated a "looming storm of controversy" centered on Capitol Hill, a top Senate staff officer informed this newspaper, because of his recent personnel decisions regarding key State Department positions. "Ironically, he has managed to alarm both the conservative and the liberal blocs", the source added.

According to the source, several influential Republican Senators and Congressmen have written personal letters directly to President Richard Nixon expressing great disappointment over these personnel actions. Their greatest objection was to the retention of Idar Rimestad, the controversial Deputy Under Secretary of State for Administration whose wife's contribution of \$500.00 to the political campaign of Democratic Congressman John Rooney has been widely reported, the source revealed.

Mr. Rimestad's position is central, the source claimed, because his office controls not only the admitted public funds of the State Department but also the clandestine and confidential funds as well as the personnel interchange arrangements between the Central Intelligence Agency, the Foreign Service and the Department of Defense. In addition, all security files and all promotion, assignment and "selection out" actions come under his jurisdiction, the source revealed.

Security Probes

Mr. Rimestad's retention and his role in the Otto F. Otepka case have aggravated the "unquiet" especially among those Republican Senators and Congressman, the source said, who have received indications that Mr. Rogers has been reflecting on ways to "re-instate Mr. Otepka but to sweep the Otepka case under the rug at the same time".

Any such development is bound to lead to a re-opening, under Democratic auspices of the entire Otto F. Otepka case, these Republican leaders fear. There are many conservative Democrats who would be pleased to "hang the Otepka case albatross on the neck of Mr. Rogers as well as Robert F. Kennedy, the deceased Senator who

General, became involved in the Otepka case with Secretary Rusk", the source stated.

"Ironically, Robert Kennedy succeeded Mr. Rogers as Attorney General", the source commented.

Congressman Rarick

As evidence, the source observed that Congressman John Rarick, an acknowledge conservative Democrat, has already launched a major attack on two of President Nixon's top foreign affairs appointees. On January 13, Mr. Rarick inserted a long article in the Congressional Record on the "leftist" views of Charles Woodruff Yost, Mr. Nixon's nominee for Ambassador to the United Nations. It is a "common secret", the source added, that Mr. Yost was really Secretary Rogers' choice.

The next day, January 14, Congressman Rarick inserted six items into the Congressional Record dealing with Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's Special Assistant for National Security. The items covered three full pages of the Record. Included were articles from the Osth Information Service, the New York Times and a commentary, May 1968, written by Walter Trohan, Chief of the Washington Bureau of The Chicago Tribune.

OSTH Service

The source asserted that the article appearing in the Osth Information Service issues of January 19 and January 26 was prepared by a team of top research personnel with access to confidential files and with direct ties to powerful political figures in the Republican Party. "For this reason, this article should be regarded as an omen of future events", the source commented.

The Osth Information Service, relatively unknown hitherto in Washington, is managed by Nancy

Osth, a radio commentator who lives in Berryville, Virginia, the source revealed.

The Republican legislators are also alarmed by indications that "another deeply interested observer of Mr. Rogers and the State Department is Senator Eugene McCarthy", the source revealed. Another "open secret" on Capitol Hill is Senator McCarthy's determination to launch a full scale probe of the interlocking connections of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Foreign Service and the huge lobby-law and banking firms in Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington, the source stated.

New Investigations

Asked how these considerations affected the Otto F. Otepka and Stephen A. Kozzak cases, the source revealed that discussions are now in progress to "get these cases out of the news". However, events on Capitol Hill may result in even greater scandals emerging out of these cases, unless they are resolved in the first few weeks of the Nixon administration, he said.

With Senator McCarthy now on the Senate Government Operations Committee, which has subpoena powers, and with the Otto F. Otepka case, still unresolved, originating with the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, which also has subpoena powers, "it is highly likely that a re-emergence of intense investigations of the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency will take place", the source estimated. Central to these investigations, at least at the outset, will be data still being assembled arising out of the Otto F. Otepka and Stephen A. Kozzak cases. These data touch not only on State Department security but also the roles of the Central Intelligence Agency and of its agents in developing these cases, the informant claimed. In this connection, he added, the fact that Marvin Gentile, the present Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Security, was formerly with the Central Intelligence Agency is of great importance.

Schneider and Donovan

In its January 8 issue, this newspaper revealed that Clarence Jerome Schneider, a key witness in possession of information about the identities of persons who carried out an illegal wiretap of Mr. Otepka's telephone, has "vanished" from the Washington area. All efforts to obtain information about Mr. Schneider, who is carried as a "retired foreign service employee" by the State Department were unsuccessful up to this date.

Similarly, the State Department has refused to provide this newspaper with the current telephone number and office location of Thomas A. Donovan, a central figure in the Stephen A. Kozzak case, who "retired" in the first weeks of January, 1969. When asked for Mr. Donovan's number, the State Department employees replied that they would take the name of the caller and would notify Mr. Donovan who, if he wished, would call back.

Precipitated Crisis

An event which might "precipitate" events which now are merely "looming", the source stated, is the likely announcement of an appointment to the National Security Council. The person involved, who is backed principally because of "urgings by Dr. Kissinger", is known to have been in very serious trouble in the latter half of the Eisenhower administration because of alleged "leaks of top secret and secret" classified information to members of a foreign embassy with whom he had frequent and close associations.

According to the informant, this person, a State Department employee at the time, was the subject of an intense FBI inquiry which concluded that evidence suggested that the classified information had been passed. For this reason, the FBI, the Department of Justice and the Department of State held discussions about prosecution but the proposal was abandoned allegedly because the State Department would not agree to "de-classify", that is, make available to the prosecutor, the "contents of the secret telegrams." The State Department alleged that, despite the evidence the FBI had, it was not in the interest of the US government to have the telegrams become public knowledge because they contained discussions with the head of a foreign matter which, if revealed, would "embarrass" the United States.