

CONFIDENTIAL *off*

May 29, 1957.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BRYCERe: Security Appeal System

You will recall that at its last meeting the Security Panel considered a paper submitted by the Security Sub-Panel setting out a method whereby an appeal system might be set up to consider any case of a person to be dismissed from the public service on security grounds. In submitting this appeal system, the Security Sub-Panel stated that in its view the advantages of an appeal system were outweighed by the disadvantages. The Security Panel accepted the Sub-Panel's view.

2. I was never entirely satisfied that the Sub-Panel's recommendation against the appeal system was entirely sound since in my view some of the arguments against it were based at least to some extent on expediency rather than principle. I was not, however, able to carry the Sub-Panel in this view.

3. One of the arguments against the appeal system was based upon the undoubted difficulty of finding the people who would make up the Appeal Board and generally organizing the work of the Board once it had been set up. Further weight was given to this argument by the fact that while on the one hand the problems of organization would be fairly tricky, the number of cases likely to be brought before the Board would be very few, and therefore might not justify the time and expenditure involved.

4. I have been giving this problem some further thought in relation to your own suggestion, which was accepted by the Security Panel, that in future the Civil Service Commission should be brought more closely into contact with

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security problems in general. I wonder, therefore, if it might not be possible at a later date for the Civil Service Commissioners themselves to form an Appeal Board such as that which we originally had in mind. In view of departmental resistance to any form of Appeal Board, I do not think that a suggestion along these lines from this office would at the moment have much chance of general acceptance; but looking to the future it occurs to me that as the Commissioners themselves become more closely acquainted with security problems in the Civil Service, they might themselves reach the conclusion that an Appeal Board consisting of the Civil Service Commissioners might be a valuable addition to our security procedures.

5. It is true that the Civil Service Commissioners have no jurisdiction over a number of government agencies nor over defence industry; but if they were to form an Appeal Board for the Civil Service itself, it seems to me not unreasonable that these appeal procedures could also be made available to any agency of the government. I am not attempting at this stage to present any details as to how the Appeal Board might operate, as it seems to me the suggestion to have any chance of success would have to come from the Civil Service Commissioners themselves. It does not seem likely, however, that such a suggestion would be forthcoming unless the Commissioners are interested in the problem of appeal procedure and become aware of the work which has already been done. I wonder, therefore, if you consider that the idea has any merit, whether we might begin by interesting Mr. Heeney and Mr. Pelletier in the matter and showing them the various papers and records of discussions which have taken place to date.



P.M.D.

*Yes - you might
take it up with
Paul P. & then
w. add it.*

*RFB.
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