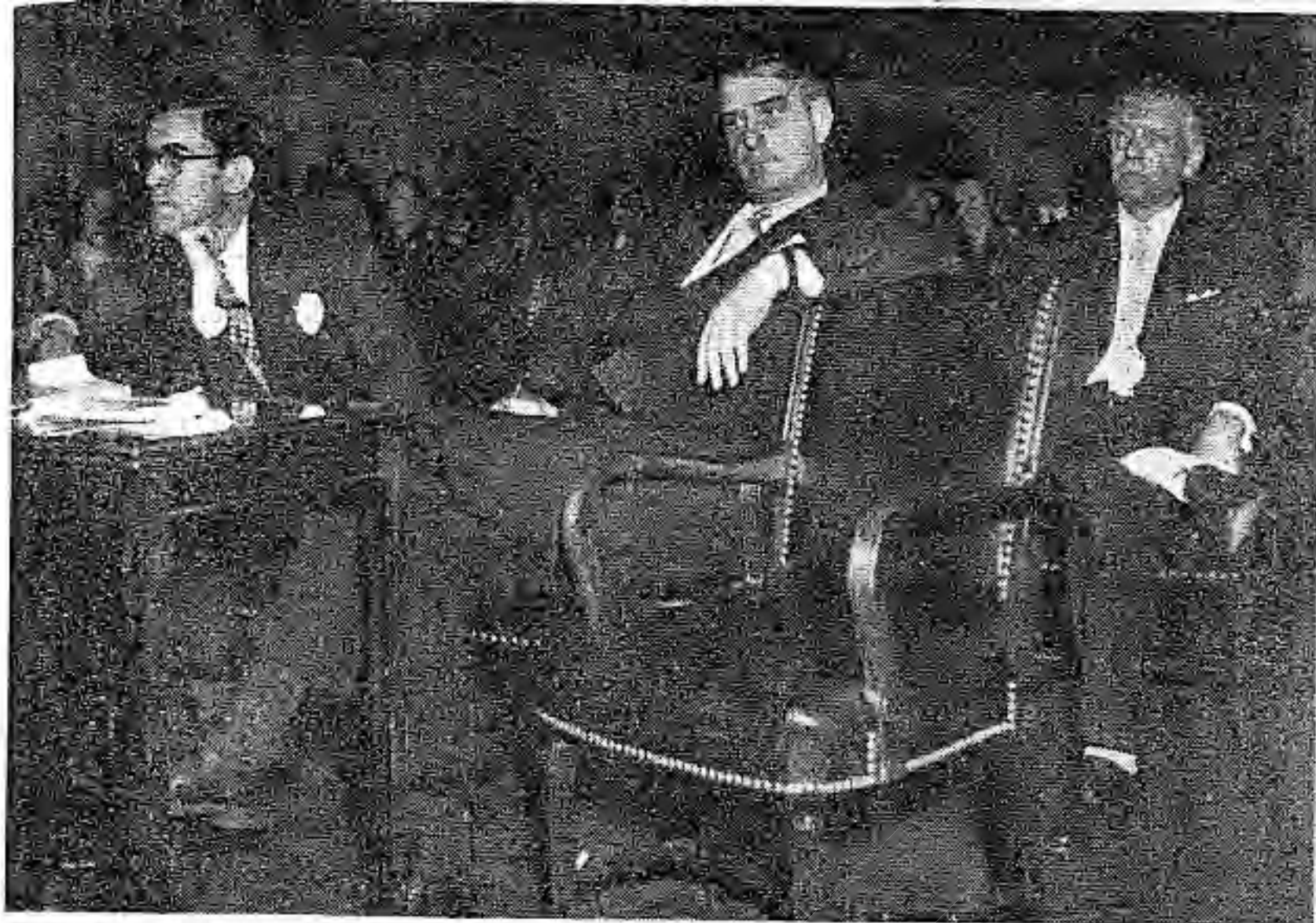




These three State Department security officers are principal figures in Sen. Joe McCarthy's investigation of missing State Department personnel files. Left, John William Ford, director of the Office of Security; center, Samuel J. Boykin, acting director of the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, and, right, John E. Matson, security officer who complained he was transferred to a less desirable job after telling probers about the matter. (See Fred Othman's column, Page 17.) —United Press Photo.

Sen. Joe's Off Again

By Fred Othman



Boykin, veteran of 13 years of investigating would-be diplomats, was so startled his eyes bulged.

He sat there, white-lipped and trembling, while Sen. McCarthy promised to call his case to the attention of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. If that doesn't bring action, Sen. Joe promised to get the tall, handsome and thoroly shaken Boykin cited for contempt of the Senate.

Nobody took a poke at his adversary there in the crystal-spangled caucus room, but a half dozen television experts came close to fainting; their cameras were turned off and before they could get the machinery to buzzing again, Mr. Boykin had pulled his hat over his eyes and stalked out.

WHAT brought on this unprecedented insult to a high Government official makes a tale that is hard to believe, even in Washington.

About a week ago John E. Matson, one of Mr. Boykin's underlings, testified under subpoena before Sen. McCarthy's investigating committee that the State Department's secret file room was so public almost anybody in the place could stroll in and filch confidential documents.

Then Mr. Matson went back to work. Mr. Boykin bawled him out at length, not once but twice. Mr.

Matson testified. Then his supervisor, a young man named John W. Ford, told Mr. Matson to quit what he was doing and go out on the street, checking on those who had applied for jobs at the department.

Mr. Matson, a gray-templed man who seems to be something of a human buzz-saw, figured this was a demotion because he'd talked to the senators. He complained to them and—wow!

Sen. McCarthy called both Messrs. Boykin and Ford to explain. Mr. Boykin, an Alabamian with an accent to match, said he thoroly concurred in changing Mr. Matson's work, tho he did not consider this disciplinary.

"The morale of the bureau was non-existent because of the work of this committee," he said. "Our people were afraid of Sen. McCarthy. They were afraid of Mr. Matson."

"They also were afraid for their jobs," suggested Sen. John L. McClellan (D., Ark.).

"And with good reason," added Sen. McCarthy.

"I wouldn't know," said Mr. Boykin, who realized by then he wasn't making friends and influencing senators.

"There can be no question that this was reprisal against Mr. Matson and intimidation of other witnesses," Sen. McCarthy said. "This is the most incredible act I've seen on the part of any official."

HE then told Mr. Boykin what he thought about his competence and promised to bring his case to the attention of Secretary of State Dulles and the latter's undersecretary, Donald B. Lourie, the former president of the Quaker Oats Co., who was being sworn in across town at the same moment. His decision concerning the intelligence of Mr. Boykin will be the first official chore of Oats magnate Lourie.

As for Assistant Ford, he never got to say a word in his own defense. For hours he sat with teeth gritted so hard his jaw muscles rippled. Sen. McCarthy takes him on at the next session. Poor Ford!