



The Phyllis Schlafly Report



VOL. 6, NO. 5

Box 618, ALTON, ILLINOIS 62002

DECEMBER, 1972

The Problem of Passport Security

The United States Passport Office is drowning in paperwork while fraudulent use of U.S. passports is spreading rapidly. This is the judgment of Passport Director Frances Knight, who recently told the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee that, "at a time when fraud is increasing, we are denied staff to combat it."

Miss Knight presented statistics which show that, for the fiscal years 1970 to 1972, there was an average of more than 17,000 U.S. passports reported lost or stolen *annually* which have never been accounted for. Some of these passports, of course, were destroyed in an accidental, honest manner. Miss Knight estimates that more than half of these documents are still outstanding and valid and have probably found their way into illicit channels, especially the international drug traffic.

"Unless Congress takes decisive action to make fraud a nonpaying proposition," Miss Knight declared, "it will continue to spread and be totally unmanageable. Swift and stern measures should be taken to make the use and submission of fraudulent documents to any department, agency, or segment of the U.S. Government a costly and unpleasant experience."

Miss Frances G. Knight, who for 17 years has headed the Passport Office of the Department of State, gave this testimony under oath to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on September 15, and it has only recently been released to the public. Miss Knight has one of the most distinguished careers in the entire United States Government service, having served with distinction under four Presidents, each of whom has commended her organization and direction of the Passport Office.

Frauds to Cover Criminals

Miss Knight pointed out in her testimony that "all passport frauds are committed for the purpose of covering up criminal activities. This includes fraudulent citizenship claims which are advanced by aliens to obtain illegal entry into the United States."

Persons obtaining passports by fraud fall into several basic categories: (1) drug traffickers, (2) militant groups, (3) confidence men or swindlers, (4) illegal aliens in the United States, (5) fugitives from justice, and (6) impostors. These criminals specialize in certain types of fraud such as adoption frauds, fraudulent use of passports, impostor fraud, and slot fraud.

Adoption frauds generally involve a childless American couple adopting a child overseas and then reporting the birth to a consular post as their own baby.

Fraudulent use of a passport involves one which has been legitimately issued but subsequently altered to remove a restriction or to falsely indicate issuance to another person.

Slot cases involve the reporting of the birth of children overseas when in fact such birth did not occur. This is a method by which an alien can be brought into the United States as a citizen either as a child or years later.

An impostor fraud is one in which a person assumes the identity of another individual in order to obtain a passport. One way this is done is for the impostor to obtain officially-issued birth or baptismal certificates or hospital records, either by theft or purchase, and then, with a little expert cosmetic assistance, effectively impersonate the person on the certificate.

Another procedure used by impostors is to obtain a birth certificate of a deceased person. There is no efficient coordination of official records between births and deaths, or any standardization of birth records or certificates in the United States. There is no regular procedure for ascertaining whether a baby born 30 years ago, or six months ago, is still with us, or has gone to his reward.

The Communists discovered this loophole in U.S. records many years ago and frequently used this procedure to provide their espionage agents with a U.S. passport based on the presentation of a birth certificate of a baby born years ago and now dead. Miss Knight explained how this works:

"Since a person must establish his claim to American citizenship as well as his identity, you may ask what evidence of American citizenship was submitted in these fraudulent cases. Almost without exception, the American citizenship was based on birth in the United States. How do these applicants get these birth certificates which refer to other individuals? They obtain these birth certificates simply by writing to a registrar of vital statistics, sending the requisite fee, and making a request for the document. Where do they get the information regarding the person whose birth certificate they are going to use? I refer you to pages 355, 356 and 357 of the book entitled *Witness* written by Whittaker Chambers, as well as to pages 184 to 189 of the book entitled *The Deception* by Hede Massing. Both these individuals are well known as members of Communist underground activities in the United States.

"The procedure spelled out in these volumes was used by Francis Timothy Leary to flee from the United States, as well as by Ronald Kaufman [who

planted bombs in a number of U.S. banks last year]. . . . Since it is known that both of these persons were connected with so-called militant organizations, we can assume that this method of obtaining birth certificates is well known to these organizations."

Passports for Drug Traffickers

Like other Government departments, the Passport Office has been concerned for some time with the expansion and disastrous results of the international drug traffic. The Passport Office is concerned because of two closely related factors: (1) passport fraud being perpetrated by persons who are either drug addicts or drug traffickers, and (2) protecting the integrity of the U.S. passport.

An example of a typical investigation into the fraudulent use of U.S. passports by drug traffickers related to a New Left organization called the "Brotherhood of Eternal Love." This outfit was reportedly founded by Dr. Timothy Leary and was based on LSD operations. Dr. Leary's present connections with the Brotherhood, if any, are not known, although it is claimed that the Brotherhood did help him obtain a fraudulent passport by means of a false identity, in order to facilitate his hasty departure from the United States after he escaped from a California jail where he was imprisoned on a narcotics charge. In early 1969, the Brotherhood of Eternal Love turned its attention to hashish and hard drugs and engaged in smuggling operations from Afghanistan into the United States.

Because of its illegal drug trafficking, an extensive investigation is being conducted into the activities of the Brotherhood of Eternal Love by a task force of local, State and Federal agencies. A grand jury in Orange County, California has indicted 47 members of the Brotherhood on drug smuggling charges. The District Attorney who arrested the 47 released a press statement which gives the background of this group:

"The Brotherhood of Eternal Love is an offshoot of the League of Spiritual Discovery (LSD), a drug oriented religious cult founded by Dr. Timothy Leary. The members of the League and now the Brotherhood believe they receive mystical insight into life through the use of hallucinogenic drugs. At present Dr. Leary is a fugitive living in Switzerland, but he is still considered the 'high priest' of this drug oriented cult. His followers inhabit a ranch in a remote area of Southern California.

"In October 1966, Leary and his followers applied to the State of California for corporate status. On October 26, 1966, the Brotherhood of Eternal Love became a legal corporation in California and was granted *tax exempt status* by the State Franchise Tax Board on the grounds of its religious nature set forth in the Articles of Incorporation.

"In the year long investigation by the Special Task Force investigating the Brotherhood, it has been determined that this cult is one of the major suppliers of LSD, hashish oil, and hashish throughout the United States and the world. The Brotherhood has also set up a major smuggling network using false identification and forged passports that allow its members to travel about the world making *illegal drug purchases for import into the U.S.* Intelligence developed by the Task Force revealed that the Brotherhood has smuggled nearly 1,000 pounds of hashish into the U.S. each month. During the investigation of the Brotherhood, the Task Force agents have seized more than 1.5 million LSD tablets, 30 gallons of hashish oil, more than 2½ tons of hashish, three LSD labs and four hashish oil labs, along with innumerable sets of

falsified identifications and passports. . . .

"The Brotherhood's hashish smuggling operation is headed by one experienced smuggler who coordinates the worldwide illegal drug traffic. . . . If a car is to be used in the smuggling operation, it is usually purchased in the U.S. and fitted with hidden compartments. The vehicle is then shipped to Afghanistan. . . . When the vehicle is loaded with hashish, it is taken out of Afghanistan supplied with new, false registration, shipped back to the U.S., usually to a port known not to have major narcotics problems. . . ." (emphasis added)

The Special Task Force provided the Passport Office with a list of 155 persons (with 110 aliases) who are members of the Brotherhood. Investigations by the Passport Office have so far turned up 91 of these passport files. Many of them indicate use of the well-known pattern of reporting the original passport as lost or stolen and subsequently obtaining a replacement passport.

How To Lose a Passport

There are many other cases involving drug-related passport frauds but, unfortunately, the Passport Office rarely gets the facts in time to take preventative action. Most frauds surface long after the event. However, there are certain patterns in connection with passport frauds which cannot be ignored even though proof of actual individual fraud is not immediately available.

An American consular officer in New Delhi described the phony story by which passport fraud is perpetrated abroad as follows: "The American citizen was on a train and while sleeping, his or her purse was stolen; or while running across the street in heavy monsoon rain, the passport must have dropped in water and could not be found; or the hotel room was broken into while the passport bearer was sleeping; passport and money stolen under vague circumstances; or passport was stolen while sleeping in the park in central Delhi, etc. In most cases, travelers checks are stolen along with the passport and the routine involves application to American Express for replacement of travelers checks at the same time applying for a replacement passport. The procedure is too pat for complacency. First: the passport is reported lost. Second: the police authorities are informed. Third: a police statement of loss is acquired. Fourth: the Embassy or Consulate is advised of the loss. Fifth: identification papers are produced and replacement passport is issued. More recently, we have been informed that some young people have been coming in to register upon arrival with the Consulate Office in New Delhi so that their passport and other identity are recorded. Several days later they are back saying, 'Remember me? I registered here the other day.'

"In view of their certifications regarding loss, the Embassy has no alternative but to accept application for a replacement passport and to issue it. While there is no indication that an organized group is involved in the lost or stolen passports in India, the young people appear to be suspiciously well versed in the procedure for applying for a replacement. Only on rare occasions do lost or stolen passports turn up and we have no indication that they have been used for espionage purposes or fraudulent immigration purposes. Drugs, especially hashish, are commonly used by some 'hippies' and it is quite possible that passports are being sold rather than lost to finance a personal drug habit. But how do we prove this?"

Corroboration for the opinion that hippie drug addicts abroad sell their passports to others for fraudulent use came from the September 12, 1972

testimony of Mme. Suzanne Labin to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. She personally made the depressing journey down the "Hashish Trail," through Afghanistan, Nepal, India and Goa, interviewing hundreds of addicts of all nationalities. In listing the ways that these runaways secure money to buy their drugs, she said: "They sell their passports. An American passport in the Orient is worth \$100."

The Senate Committee asked Miss Knight why there is such a great demand for U.S. passports by drug traffickers. She said it is because the U.S. passport is considered "the most acceptable document of identification available. An American citizen can have any kind of foreign name; he can be any color and have any known accent without arousing suspicion. Our citizenship is a conglomerate of race, color, accent and appearance. Professional drug traffickers and other criminals seek cover with the best identification available and with the least chance of an official challenge."

"Clean" and "Manufactured" Passports

Drug traffickers are not the only ones who falsely report a passport as lost in order to obtain a new one. Another reason for doing it is that a person, for other illegal reasons, wants to obtain a "clean passport," one which does not reflect entry or departure dates. Too much traveling arouses suspicion, and with a "clean passport" one can more easily pass as a tourist. This angle is often played by those who wish to avoid paying certain taxes. As Miss Knight pointed out, "the stamping of entry and departure dates on a passport is of inestimable help in tracking down the travel route of criminals."

Miss Knight testified that the situation with regard to fraudulent birth documents and identification is further complicated by information received and published in the *New York Times*. An article dated December 19, 1971 describes the new flourishing business of manufacturing documents: "Organized crime members are going into the business of selling a vast variety of official identification documents, according to law enforcement officials. The documents include birth certificates, driver's licenses, car registrations, high school diplomas, armed forces discharges, Social Security cards and even passports."

What Can Be Done

The Senate Subcommittee asked Miss Knight if the Passport Office has done all it can do to combat passport fraud and protect the security of the U.S. passport. She replied: "We have done all we can do under our present organization and circumstances. I think much more can be done. The Passport Office has been ringing the alarm on passport and identification frauds for 43 years. The lack of decisive action and effective control by the upper echelons of Government who have received these warnings over the years is a sad commentary on high level official responsibility and concern for our national well-being. I am angry about this situation because the record of the Passport Office is clear as crystal."

Miss Knight recounted her numerous efforts over the past decade to circumvent the bureaucracy in the State Department, and to secure the support for adequate staff and funds to protect U.S. passport security, but endless bureaucratic roadblocks and entanglements constantly snarled her efforts. She added, "Virtually every recommendation I have made for alleviating the burden of overwork and the prevailing anxiety regarding fraud has either been ignored or refused because of budgetary cuts." She said that the reasons advanced by the State Department for preventing improvements for the

Passport Office are "pure, unadulterated fiction."

What is the real problem in coping with fraud in connection with U.S. passports? Miss Knight put her finger on the problem: "We are drowning in paperwork involved in management studies, reports, statistics, time-studies, manpower utilization studies, productivity analyses and other such matters which seep down to us from the upper echelons of management and administration. At a time when fraud is increasing, we are denied staff to combat it. In this year, 1972, the Passport Office has been short at all times between 52 and 82 permanent employees. Our Legal Division has had only eight attorneys, seven legal assistants, and 12 clerical staff. Over a year ago, in July 1971, we stated we would need 49 positions for fiscal 1972, which began July 1, 1971. Only 29 were approved by the Budget Office, but as of today, they have not been allocated. . . . I want to state as emphatically as possible that we in the Passport Office are at the end of the rope."

Basically the security of the United States should not be a question of dollars and cents. It makes no sense to refuse to allocate the funds and personnel to stop drug traffickers, tax-evaders, and assorted criminals from using fraudulent U.S. passports to take themselves and their wares illegally in and out of the country.

But the part that is so incredible is that the Passport Office is one of the very few agencies in the U.S. Government which annually show a budget surplus. Whereas every other part of the Federal Government is engulfed in red ink, under Miss Knight's efficient administration, the Passport Office always come out at the end of the year with a healthy surplus. In the last fiscal year, ending June 30, 1972, the collections made by the Passport Office totaled \$14,570,000 in excess of its domestic operating costs. This "profit" is deposited in the U.S. Treasury. Miss Knight has recommended the use of a businesslike revolving fund to be audited quarterly by the General Accounting Office, but, as usual, her recommendation was turned down by the State Department.

As a direct result of Miss Knight's courageous exposures of waste and inefficiency, her repeated warnings of growing fraud and criminal activities in the obtention of passports and other Government documents, and her criticism of maladministration within the State Department, she has been advised by the Deputy Undersecretary of State for Management, Mr. William B. Macomber, that "the Secretary of State does not support her" and that she is "an embarrassment to this Administration." Mr. Macomber has further stated that he has been "instructed by the highest authority to get rid of Miss Knight"; and as recently as two months ago, he stated that "next year we will definitely get rid of her." It would be interesting to know just who gave Mr. Macomber these instructions.

Fortunately, Miss Knight has kept accurate records of these warnings and threats and is ready for an official confrontation. She needs the support of every American concerned with good government and security. Will you help?

Let your Senators and Congressmen know that you want the Passport Office to be given all necessary funds and employees to protect the United States Passport, to maintain its integrity and to keep it secure. Let them know that Miss Knight deserves their support and encouragement. Let them know that you want them to get tough with traffickers and pushers in drugs, foreign espionage agents and criminals, and the costly layering of non-productive bureaucrats. Please write immediately.

Frances Knight: A Government Official We Need

Frances Knight, Director of the U.S. Passport Office, holds one of the most responsible positions in the Federal Government today. She is a living refutation of several widely-held beliefs: (1) that government bureaucracy is always inefficient; (2) that women can't rise on their own merits to executive positions, and (3) that civil servants must toady to their superiors in order to keep their jobs.

For 17 years, Frances Knight has held the important, responsible and sensitive position of Director of the U.S. Passport Office. If being a woman was a handicap, her superior talents, energy and dedication easily surmounted it. She was appointed to her position on merit and retains it on merit. She has proved her worth and earned the commendations of four U.S. Presidents and the respect of high officials of both political parties.

The impression most Americans have of the Federal Government is that of gross inefficiency -- bogged down in red tape, people doing "busy work" writing memos to one another. This is often true. It may even be usually true. But, the Passport Office under Frances Knight's direction is a shining exception. There are many reasons for this. The bureaucracy can produce efficiently and productively only in the hands of an administrator who is a good executive and understands the labyrinths of the bureaucracy. Miss Knight is, and does.

Miss Knight has overhauled the Passport Office from top to bottom and made it increasingly efficient in the face of a spiraling workload. The Office processed only 350,000 passports in 1955, the year she became Director. Now, well over 2 million passports are issued every year. Miss Knight cut the time for obtaining a passport from six weeks to three days or less. She simplified the applications from three legal-size pages to one letter-size page. She slimmed the passport itself from 48 pages to 20. Representatives from 48 nations have come to America to study and adopt her techniques, and a score of cities and travel and transportation agencies have awarded her commendations.

When members of the Executive Branch go to testify on Capitol Hill, they usually are evasive, sometimes arrogant, in refusing to answer under the spurious claim of "executive privilege," which is sometimes colloquially known as the "executive fifth amendment." In reading their testimony, one gets the impression that their chief function is to cover up for their superiors. Not so Frances Knight; when she speaks on the Hill, she lays it on the line and tells it like it is. That is why Congressmen from both sides of the aisle respect and admire her.

Part of Miss Knight's philosophy of life surfaced when she once told a reporter, "In this business, you've got to choose between popularity and efficient management. You know where I stand." She is not popular with the big spenders, with the befuddled bureaucrats trying to make their own jobs look important, or with the assorted leftists who want to dismantle all security safeguards. Miss Knight is respected throughout the Government as a conservative who is deeply concerned about the security of America.

Miss Knight has successfully treaded that narrow line of being always forthright but ever feminine, efficient but not bossy, determined in pursuit of her



Miss Frances Knight

objectives but gracious to all. She has successfully combined a rewarding career and a happy marriage. In private life, she is the wife of Wayne Parrish, founder of 16 national and international aviation publications.

Our times demand patriotism, integrity, determination and a dedication to the highest standards of public service in order to plug the many leaking dikes in American security. Frances Knight has all these qualities, and we are fortunate to have her on the job. We need her there.

Phyllis Schlafly's new book, *Mindzenty the Man*, has just been published. It is a biography of Cardinal Mindszenty, the great Hungarian leader who was imprisoned both by the Communists and the Nazis -- and survived. Here are the statements about this book from two religious leaders:

From **Billy Graham**: "In a world aflame with violence and lack of concern for others, it is good to know that there are Christian leaders whose spiritual strength enables them to overcome adversity. Cardinal Mindszenty is such a leader, and this book gives a good insight into the remarkable character of the man."

From **Norman Vincent Peale**: "I am very happy indeed to endorse this book as an excellent work. I found the work very interesting and enlightening. I believe that this great man, Mindszenty, comes forth with considerable power in the work."

(Available from Pere Marquette Press, Box 495, Alton, Ill. 62002, \$2.)

The Phyllis Schlafly Report

Box 618, Alton, Illinois 62002

Published monthly by Phyllis Schlafly, Fairmount, Alton, Illinois 62002.

Second Class Postage Paid at Alton, Illinois.

Subscription Price: For donors to the Eagle Trust Fund -- \$5 yearly (included in annual contribution). Extra copies available: 15 cents each; 8 copies \$1; 50 copies \$4; 100 copies \$8.