

1658 AMENDING SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES CONTROL ACT OF 1950

refused "to answer questions relevant to his continued eligibility for security clearance, his existing clearance will be suspended and further processing of his case will be discontinued."

At the outset of the interview on June 30, 1967, plaintiff stated his name, address and employer in response to questions propounded by the Department Counsel who was conducting the interview. Thereafter, he declined to answer all other questions on the grounds that they were irrelevant, incompetent or immaterial, or all of these. There was no hearing officer or other impartial person present at the interview to make rulings on these objections. After each objection, the Department Counsel proceeded to the next question.

By letter dated October 13, 1967, plaintiff was informed by the Department of Defense in pertinent part that:

"Having reviewed the transcript of that interview, the Screening Board has concluded that Mr. Shoultz's refusal to answer the questions addressed to him by Department Counsel denies the Board information it considers essential to a determination of his continued eligibility for security clearance. The conclusion by the Screening Board that the additional information is essential was based upon its evaluation of facts developed by investigation. Without that information the Board is unable to reach the affirmative finding required by Section 2 of Executive Order 10865 dated February 20, 1960, i.e., that it is clearly consistent with the national interest to continue his clearance."

Almost immediately, plaintiff was notified by his employer that he would be terminated solely because of the suspension.

The Court is of the opinion that, as in Greene, there are serious constitutional problems inherent in the suspension procedure as outlined above which is sanctioned by Section V. B. In Hannah v. Larche, 363 U.S. 420 (1960), the Supreme Court stated: "Whether the Constitution requires that a particular right obtain in a specific proceeding depends upon a complexity of factors. The nature of the alleged right involved, the nature of the proceeding, and the possible burden on that proceeding are all considerations which must be taken into account." (Id., at