

C 15-2-70

BIOGRAPHICAL FACTS ON ROGER L. PRIEST

AGE: 26 (Born March 13, 1944) HOMETOWN: Houston, Texas

MARITAL STATUS: Single

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

ENTERED U. S. Navy:
October 19, 1967

Bachelor of Science degree in
journalism from the University
of Houston (June 1, 1967)

DISCHARGE DATE: October 18, 1971

PAY GRADE: E-2

RANK: Journalist Seaman Apprentice (JOSA)



CHRONOLOGY OF REPRESSION

APRIL 1, 1969 - First issue of OM, The Servicemen's Newsletter. Circulation: 1,000. Seaman Priest reassigned to the Washington Navy Yard 1 & 1/2 hours after arriving at the Office of Navy Information in the Pentagon where he had been working as a journalist since January 12, 1968.

MAY 1 - Second issue of OM, The Servicemen's Newsletter. Circulation: 1,000.

JUNE 1 - Third issue of OM, The Liberation Newsletter (Name changed). Circulation: 1,000.

JUNE 6 - L. Mendel Rivers writes letter to Pentagon saying OM "reflects a gross abuse of the constitutional right of free speech." The Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee asks for an opinion from the Judge Advocate General "as to whether or not this activity by the individual identified as 'R. Priest' constitutes a violation of Navy regulations and/or a violation of Title 18, United States Code." Rivers tells Navy he wants to know what action they contemplate taking.

JUNE 12 - Navy tells Rivers "this matter is being investigated" and he will receive "a complete report shortly."

- Priest interrogated by Office of Naval Intelligence agents.

JUNE 17 - Priest transferred to Processing Division, Naval Station, Washington, D. C. and put in a "legal hold" status, pending further investigation.

JUNE 20 - Rear Admiral Means Johnston, Jr., Chief of Navy Legislative Affairs writes Rivers that "the Judge Advocate General has informed me that a preliminary investigation indicates the probability that offenses have been committed by Seaman Priest. Fourteen official charges filed against Priest, including one specification that he "used contemptuous words against L. Mendel Rivers."

