

# Neo-Nazis Plan Press Ethics Unit

By Drew Pearson  
and Jack Anderson

One of the most significant operations of the secret neo-Nazi movement in the United States is a plan to establish a press ethics committee to rate newspapermen and broadcasters and to censure those who embarrass "the movement."

Director of this committee is Frank Kluckhohn, who has been close to Willis Carto, chief mainspring of the neo-Nazi underground and organizer of the Liberty Lobby. Carto helped raise \$90,000 which was distributed to conservative Congressional candidates last year.

Chief danger of this underground is its influence with a long list of Congressmen to whom it contributed heavily.

One of those enlisted was the sonorous, oratorical, naïve Sen. Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois, Republican Leader in the Senate, who has played directly into the hands of the underground.

Dirksen did exactly what Kluckhohn and the Liberty Lobby have been hoping to do, by attacking the New York Times and its reporter, Neil Sheehan, for digging into the manner in which Otto Otepka raised the money to pay his attorney, Roger Robb, plus other defense expenses in his battle against the State Department. The Department, under Dean Rusk, had dropped Otepka for leaking classified information

on Walt Rostow and others to Sen. Tom Dodd (D-Conn.). Rostow was the National Security Adviser to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson.

President Nixon has now promoted Otepka from his former, \$14,000 job in the State Department to a \$36,000 job on the Subversive Activities Control Board. By so doing, Mr. Nixon rebuffed his own Secretary of State, William P. Rogers, who refused to reinstate Otepka. Robb, Otepka's attorney, has been promoted by Mr. Nixon to the U.S. Court of Appeals, one of the most important judicial appointments in the nation.

## Persecuting N.Y. Times

When the New York Times dug into the John Birch Society and other right-wing sources from which Otepka had raised his legal defense fund, Sen. Dirksen took the unusual step of denouncing the Times, and threatened to denounce on the floor of the Senate the reporter who wrote the story. It was the New York Times, incidentally, which fired Kluckhohn. And it was Dirksen who urged President Johnson to save the Subversive Activities Control Board, to which Otepka has now been appointed.

What the New York Times did was a straight piece of reporting, which every newspaper has a right and obligation to do in order to keep the public informed. Reporter Sheehan showed how Otepka had

been palsy-walsy with the John Birch Society and had raised at least \$22,000 from its members or its fronts.

Sheehan queried Otepka about these activities. He declined to discuss them.

Though the Times did a thorough job of probing Otepka's ties with the John Birch Society, it did not go into the equally significant manner in which the Liberty Lobby and the neo-Nazi movement has backed Otepka.

## Stifling News Criticism

If Sen. Dirksen's angry blast at the New York Times stands as a precedent, it means that newspapers cannot report on the activities of a presidential appointee facing Senate confirmation without risk of being attacked in the Senate. This is exactly what Willis Carto and Frank Kluckhohn, with their press ethics committee, are trying to accomplish. They want to hamstring critical comment by newspapers.

For instance, the Abilene Reporter-News in Texas recently exposed the John Birch Society connections of certain candidates running for mayor and city council of Abilene. The background of these candidates was relatively unknown to the electorate prior to the Abilene Reporter-News expose. As a result of the newspaper's enterprise, the Birchite slate was badly defeated.

Frank Kluckhohn, the man who would head the proposed press ethics committee, had a spectacular career as a New York Times correspondent, being jailed by the British in Africa, arrested and deported by President Peron of Argentina. U.S. Ambassador George Messersmith in Buenos Aires sent a 20-page report to the State Department after the Argentine incident, calling Kluckhohn irresponsible and unbalanced.

Dropped by the New York Times, Kluckhohn got a job under John Foster Dulles in the State Department, later switched to the Republican National Committee, where he worked for four years.

While working for the Republican National Committee Kluckhohn ghosted two of the most scurrilous of the anti-Johnson books—"The Inside on LBJ" and "Lyndon's Legacy." Though the Republican National Committee steadfastly denied it had any connection with these smear books, the committee's vouchers for July 1964 showed a \$1000 payment to Frank Kluckhohn. Kluckhohn collected another \$1000 from the right-wing "Americans for Constitutional Action."

This is the man whom the neo-Nazi underground proposes to put in charge of a press ethics committee to pass judgment on what should or should not be published.