

DREW PEARSON

Otepka 'Mistake' Is Irreversible

WASHINGTON—White House aides have acknowledged to liberal Republican senators that President Nixon now realizes his appointment of Otto Otepka to the Subversive Activities Control Board was a mistake.

He can't withdraw it, however, without arousing the wrath of the right wing, which can be both vocal and vicious. He also can't afford to offend Otepka's two staunchest supporters in the Senate, GOP Leader Everett Dirksen and Sen. Strom Thurmond, both powers in the Republican party.

Rather than face the abuse of the right wing, even such liberal Democrats as Sens. Birch Bayh of Indiana and Quentin Burdick of North Dakota deserted Sen. Ted Kennedy during the fight against Otepka inside the Senate Judiciary Committee.



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The John Birch Society, Liberty Lobby and other extremist groups have enough of a following in Indiana and North Dakota to mount a nasty smear campaign.

Aides have explained that the President was really looking for a safe place to put Otepka out to pasture. He felt the Subversive Activities Control Board, whose name would impress the right wing but whose power has been severely restricted by the Supreme Court, was ideally suited for Otepka.

The rabble-rousers of the right, however, have other plans for the SACB. They now have launched a drive to put all security investigations under the SACB and to make Otepka the government's anti-subversive czar.

DIRKSEN SAVED the SACB from being abolished altogether by making a deal with ex-President Johnson to support Abe Fortas for chief justice in return for extending the life of the SACB. Now Fortas

has been hounded off the Supreme Court altogether, while Dirksen and Thurmond are pushing the right-wing plan to broaden the powers of the SACB.

"The proposed Internal Security Act of 1969, now pending in the Senate, would set up a central security agency for all agencies of government, under the control of SACB," Thurmond has explained. "If this legislation passes, Mr. Otepka will once again deal with security evaluation, not only for the State Department, but for the whole of government."

YET THE MAN who would guard the nation against subversives has indicated that he doesn't know the difference between a patriot and a Nazi. In an interview with World Wide Features, Otepka called the Liberty Lobby "patriotic" and the man who runs it, Willis Carto, a defender of "the fine traditions of American life."

World Wide's Washington bureau chief, Joe Trento, questioned Otepka about our expose of the Liberty Lobby as a Nazi front.

"Liberty Lobby is a respectable organization—patriotic," replied Otepka. "Willis Carto is no Nazi. He believes in the fine traditions of American life."

Significantly, Liberty Lobby has led the campaign to reinstate Otepka ever since he was fired from the State Department for slipping classified documents to Sen. Tom Dodd. The Liberty Lobby even produced a movie, called "The Otepka Case," featuring Otepka as the object of government persecution.

The Liberty Lobby has been under FBI investigation

since 1966 when its corresponding secretary, Jeremy Horne, discovered its Nazi leaning.

IN A REPORT to FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover, dated Aug. 24, 1966, Horne wrote: "Approximately three weeks ago, I was cleaning out a back storeroom and came across a box of letters written by a Mr. Willis Carto, current treasurer and 'owner' of this organization. To various other individuals, he had conveyed a series of thoughts propounding many theories similar to those expostulated in 'Mein Kampf.' . . .

"In all there are approximately 150 of these letters, some to black nationalist groups, as well as to vitriolic hate organizations. Along with these letters, there are numerous clippings, pamphlets and newspapers all centering around the 'racial question.' Privately, the box is marked, 'Civil Right, Personal.'"

From the enclosed, you see what I think to be an indication of fraud, "i.e.:" the usage of Liberty Lobby by this man to advance his own theories, those of national socialism (Nazism)."

Subsequently, we got hold of these letters and published excerpts in October, 1966. In a typical letter, Carto expressed his admiration for Adolf Hitler and described Hitler's defeat in World War II as "the defeat of Europe and America."

"How could we have been so blind?" wrote Carto. "The blame, it seems, must be laid at the door of the international Jews."

Yet this is the man whom Otepka has praised as a defender of American traditions.

In recent weeks we have obtained affidavits from half a dozen leaders of the former Youth for Wallace organization about Carto's Nazi activities. Like Horne, they are genuine conservatives who campaigned for George Wallace for president. They were appalled, however, after Carto took over financial control of their organization and tried to lure them into the Nazi movement.

The affidavits tell of attending meetings, arranged by Carto, at which Nazi marching songs were sung, Nazi trappings displayed and Nazi doctrine taught.

Following our expose, Carto's Liberty Lobby came out in the open and began promoting "Imperium," the 'Mein Kampf' of the new Nazi movement. This is the organization which the unbiased and unprejudiced Otepka described as "respectable" and "patriotic."