

Senate Votes To Give Otepka Post on SACB

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Otto F. Otepka, who had fought a five-year campaign to regain his job as State Department security chief, was confirmed yesterday for a \$36,000-a-year post on the Subversive Activities Control Board.

The Senate, after overwhelming a brief but lively liberal protest, voted 61 to 28 for Otepka's nomination and fulfilled a pledge made to him early this year by Republican leader Everett M. Dirksen (Ill.).

"I was determined to fight this through to the finish and the finish comes today," Dirksen declared just before the vote.

Otepka was ordered dismissed from the State Department in 1963 for giving classified documents to a staff member of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee. He fought five years for reinstatement, but both the Civil Service Commission and the new Secretary of State, William P. Rogers, refused to reverse former Secretary Dean Rusk's order.

Early this year, Dirksen suggested that President Nixon appoint him to the SACB and the President complied.

Liberals yesterday criticized him as an overzealous pursuer of security cases and said the SACB should be abolished instead of having its vacancies filled.

Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-

Wis.) said the pace of the ing membership in "Communist-action groups" was so slow that its record amounted to a cost of \$100,000 a case. He said the Board worked only one out of 50 working days.

Dirksen, defending the Board, said its inactivity had been "due to the Warren Court," which had restricted its operations in decisions that almost put it out of business.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) said Otepka had been found "not suitable" for his former job by both the Civil Service Commission and Rogers and said he should not be allowed to get the SACB post.

In reply, Dirksen pulled out a copy of a letter he said Mrs. Otepka had written to Kennedy explaining the economic hardships suffered by her husband for his action in 1963. In the letter she said she had cut her husband's hair, washed and ironed his shirts and canned tomatoes, while Otepka had been forced to take a teaching job.

The Senate voted 56 to 35 against a motion by Sen. Stephen Young (D-Ohio) to send the nomination back to committee.

From the Washington area, Sens. Harry F. Byrd (D-Va.), William Spong (D-Va.), and Charles McC. Mathias (R-Md.) voted for Otepka's confirmation. Sen. Joseph D. Tydings (D-Md.) voted against it.