

Unabridged version of same column filed State Dep't, Otepka.

Merry-Go-Round

No One Took Hitler Seriously at First . . .



Drew Pearson

Today's column is by Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson

NOBODY in Washington would take seriously the small neo-Nazi movement headed by Willis Carto and his front, the Liberty Lobby, were it not for the long list of congressmen who are in their debt, thanks to campaign contributions.

The situation might be compared to that in Germany when nobody took Adolf Hitler and his Munich beer hall Brown Shirts seriously until certain Ruhr industrialists decided to back them.

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TODAY in Washington the Liberty Lobby, thanks to its influence in Congress, has been getting some unpublicized results. Its most important triumph is the promotion of Otto Otepka, last remnant of Joe McCarthy's era, to a \$36,000 job on the Subversive Activities Control Board. Equally important was the nomination of Otepka's vigorous rightwing attorney, Roger Robb, to the U.S. Court of Appeals.

It was the persistent cross-examination by Robb of State Department officials, plus the persistent campaign of the Liberty Lobby, plus help from the John Birch Society, which led to Otepka's promotion from the \$14,000 State Department job from which he was dropped, to the job on the subversive board at over twice his previous salary.

The facts in the case are extremely important. Otepka got into trouble with Secretary of State Dean Rusk when he took classified papers to Senator Tom Dodd of

Connecticut, later censured by the Senate when his own files were copied by his employees.

The classified papers which Otepka gave Dodd pertained to the security clearance of several officials, the most important being Walt Whitman Rostow, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor who became President Kennedy's national security adviser.

There were anti-semitic overtones in Otepka's taking classified papers to Senator Dodd, since Rostow is Jewish.

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THERE was another important aftermath. Rostow became one of the leading hawks of the Kennedy-Johnson administrations. Many of his friends and associates are convinced that this was to prove he was not pro-Communist, as alleged by Otepka and the Liberty Lobby.

At any rate, it was Rostow who went to Saigon in the late summer of 1961 and recommended to President Kennedy that he heavily increase American military involvement. American troops in South Vietnam rose from 1000 to 18,000 as a result.

Later Rostow gave similar hawkish advice to President Johnson, his friends believe, to counteract the unfair accusations of the Liberty Lobby and other right wingers who kept up a steady barrage against him because of his Jewish, Socialist background.

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SF Chronicle 22 Apr 1969