

**DREW PEARSON**

State Dep't - Otepka

# Otepka Promotion Delights Nazis

WASHINGTON — 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.

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 right-wing 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 Sen. Tom Dodd of Connecticut, later censured by the Senate when his own files were copied by his employees.

The classified papers Otepka gave Dodd pertained to the security clearance of several officials, the most important being Walt Whitman Rostow, the MIT professor who became President Kennedy's national security adviser. Rostow's father was a Socialist who during World War I had so admired Socialist leader Eugene Debs that he named

one son Eugene Debs Rostow, the other Walt Whitman Rostow, in honor of the great liberal American poet.

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

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 1,000 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.

Another triumph for the Liberty Lobby is the appointment of Otepka's attorney, Roger Robb, to the D. C. Court of Appeals, second highest court in the United States.

Robb served as attorney for the Atomic Energy Commission when it purged Dr. Robert Oppenheimer during the Joe McCarthy witch-hunting days. He has represented various other spectacular right-wing or conflict-of-interest clients such as Fulton Lewis, Sherman Adams, Bernard Goldfine and Air Force Secretary Harold Talbot.

Robb is an able, vigorous lawyer. But what makes his appointment to a high court significant at a time when the Liberty Lobby and its Neo-Nazi leader Willis Carto are throwing their weight around is the fact Robb has also been a power in the exclusive Barristers Club, Washington's only legal organization with a long record of barring Jews and Negroes.

Only one Jewish attorney, Allen Kay, has been admitted in the club's 40 years.

This happened only after

Art Buchwald, the columnist, withdrew from addressing the Barristers Club four years ago when he learned they barred Jewish members. Following this, the Washington Post in 1965 and 1966 published two articles revealing Jews and Negroes were barred.

A post headline of Dec. 12, 1966, read: "The Barristers Club: Power and Prejudice, 245 Lawyers—All White Gentiles."

On July 13, 1965, the Post quoted Barristers Club President Hugh R. H. Smith as saying "there are Jews on the waiting list now." However, it took three years to get the one single Jewish lawyer elected in 1968.

Ten years before, U.S. Judge Charles Fahy had resigned from the club in protest against its restrictive membership. He has long sat on the Court of Appeals on which Robb will also serve — if confirmed by the Senate.

Robb, as an inner circle member of the Barristers Club, obviously was familiar with its discrimination policy. He probably did not know about the Nazi sympathies of Willis Carto, founder of the Liberty Lobby, prior to 1966.

But in that year this column published the details regarding the Liberty Lobby and Carto's philosophy and as a result of a suit brought before the Court of Appeals — and won by this column — the details became familiar to the public, especially to D. C. lawyers.

It's doubtful President Nixon knew much about the Liberty Lobby's background. The danger is he deferred to such potent senators as James Eastland, the big Mississippi cotton planter who is chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Sen. Tom Dodd, a member of the committee.

Other committee members who will vote on Robb's and

Otepka's confirmations are Phil Hart, Mich., Edward Kennedy, Mass., Birch Bayh, Ind., Quentin Burdick, N.D., Joseph Tydings, Md., Robert Byrd, W. Va., Sam Ervin, N.C., all Democrats, with Hiram Fong, Hawaii, Hugh Scott, Pa., Charles Mathias, Mr., and Marlow Cook, Ky., Republicans.



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