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Merry-Go-Round**A Neo-Nazi Plan
To Censor the Press****Drew Pearson**

Today's column is 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 Kluckhorn, who has been close to Willis Carto, chief mainspring of the neo-Nazi underground and organizer of the Liberty Lobby.

Chief danger of the neo-Nazi underground is its influence with a long list of congressmen to whom it contributed heavily. The situation is analogous to that in Germany when nobody took the Hitler Brown Shirts seriously until they enlisted the support of a few key industrialists.

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ONE OF those whom the neo-Nazis enlisted was the sonorous, oratorical, naive Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois, Republican leader in the Senate, who has played directly into the hands of the underground.

Dirksen did exactly what Kluckhorn 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 Senator 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.

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, Senator 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.

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.

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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.

If Senator 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 Kluckhorn, with their press ethics committee, are trying to accomplish. They want to hamstring critical comment by newspapers.

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