

See Otto F. Otepka (filed State Department)
4 Apr 69 ff.

Fund With Birch Society Ties Helped Otepka in State

Department Job Fight by Paying Legal Debts

By E.H. [unclear]
 WASHINGTON
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Links to Birch Events

An investigation showed that Mr. Otepka's association with Birch members has been considerable over the last several years.

Last summer he attended the four-day annual God, Family and Country rally in Boston organized by Birch Society leaders. The rally chairman is Col. Laurence E. Bunker, a member of the Birch National Council.

Gordon D. Hall, the lecturer and authority on extremist groups, said he had seen Mr. Otepka autographing glossy, 8 by 10-inch photographs of himself beside the fund's display booth in the Statler-Hilton Hotel, where the rally was held.

Mr. Hall said that another eye witness had told him that Mr. Bunker had formally introduced Mr. Otepka to an assembly of the participants in the rally.

Medford Evans, book review editor for the Birch Society magazine and managing editor of the segregationist White Citizens Council weekly, said

that Mr. Otepka had taken a modest part in two political seminars at the rally.

Mr. Otepka declined to discuss his appearances at the rally. Birch Society activists...
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He was originally disclosed in 1963 for passing classified documents to the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee without authorization.

After lengthy hearings, former Secretary of State Dean Rusk formally reprimanded him in December of 1967 and demoted him to what Mr. Otepka called a "clerical job" that paid about \$5,000 less than the \$20,585 he drew as a security investigator.

He is now on leave without pay. The position on the subversive activities board pays \$36,000.

Mr. Otepka said he had gone to the Boston rally because he and his wife like the "seashore air" and he happened to be in the city on vacation. He said he did not remember autographing any photographs and would not say if he had participated in the seminars.

Mrs. Harold N. McKinney, a Birch Society chapter leader who is the rally's executive secretary, said Mr. Otepka had come as an invited guest.

She said she had known Mr. Otepka before he had been suspended in 1963 and that he had been "very helpful" in arranging for speakers at meetings in the Boston area.

Colonel Bunker, former aide de camp to the late Gen. of the Army Douglas MacArthur, said the rally was not a Birch So-

ciety activity and was just a gathering of conservatives, but Mr. Evans said "at least half the people there were John Birchers" and while the rally was not an official function of the society, "there is a lot of overlap."

A number of the exhibitors are official Birch Society fronts, including the anti-civil rights 1968 About Civil Turmoil Committee. Others are independent ultraconservative organizations, including the anti-Communist magazine, The American Mercury.

James Butler, a Birch Society chapter leader in Oak Brook, Ill., said Mr. Otepka had spoken at a home of 15 to 20 or 30 or 40 people at Mr. Butler's home five times over the last two years. "He comes here whenever he comes to Chicago," Mr. Butler said.

Mr. Butler said that in addition to explaining his dispute with the State Department, Mr. Otepka also talks about treason in high places in Washington and all the other horrible things that are taking place.

He said Mr. Otepka never solicited money at any of these gatherings but that Mr. Stewart might have occasionally mentioned how much the fund had collected for Mr. Otepka up to that date.

Among other activities, Mr. Butler was an original member of the Emergency Committee Against Having Soviet Spies in Chicago, created in early 1967 to oppose the consular treaty with the Soviet Union.

He said in a telephone conversation that he was now concerned with the "unconstitutional" use of welfare funds "to support illegitimate children" and with the Federal Reserve banking system. "It's illegal," he said.

Jay Klopfenstein, the chief organizer of the antispy committee and a Birch chapter leader in Evanston, Ill., said he had heard Mr. Otepka speak twice in the last several years, once at the Flick-Reedy auditorium and gain to a gathering at the home of a "friend" in Glenview, Ill. He said Mr. Otepka had struck him as "a very capable, cold analyzer of subversives."

He said he had not particularly been impressed with Mr. Otepka's oratorical talents, "but I wouldn't expect a subversive

analizer to be a good public speaker." Mr. Klopfenstein said he had subsequently received circular letters of appeal from Mr. Stewart and made several modest contributions.

Mr. Stewart was formerly assistant director of the "educational" program of the Flick-Reedy organization. Frank Flick, the president of Flick-Reedy Electronics Corporation, has cooperated with Birch Society leaders in political endeavors.

Mr. Stewart was a speaker at the annual Boston rally in 1965 and has set up an exhibition booth for the fund there in the years since.

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