

Otepka Okayed By Senate Unit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Judiciary Committee approved, 10-3, today President Nixon's nomination of Otto F. Otepka to be a member of the Subversive Activities Control Board.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., one of the three to vote against recommending confirmation, said he will oppose the nomination when it is brought up in the Senate.

"I don't think there is room on the SACB for a member whose basis of strength and support is the John Birch Society and the Liberty Lobby," Kennedy told reporters after a closed meeting of the committee at which he questioned Otepka.

IN A STATEMENT the committee made public yesterday, Otepka said he does not have and has not had any "connections with the John Birch Society, or the Liberty Lobby, or Mr. Willis Carto, or with any other persons or organizations known to him to be actively associated with any of the above three."

The Washington Evening Star said today two organizations that contributed more than \$23,500 to fight Otepka's dismissal as the State Department's chief security evaluator have clearly defined ties with numerous right-wing groups including the John Birch Society.

The Star, in a story prepared for today's editions, said the principal fund-rais-

ing organization for Otepka also urged its supporters to subscribe to right-wing publications and was founded by

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a man who addressed a Birch Society rally last year.

THE STAR ALSO said a \$2,500 donation was made by another organization whose leaders have appeared at Birch Society functions, contributed to society publications and actively sought funds for the society.

Questions about Otepka's "connections and finances" were raised last week by four members of a committee considering his appointment by President Nixon to the \$36,000-a-year job.

Sens. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.; Philip A. Hart, D-Mich.; Joseph D. Tydings, D-Md., and Quentin N. Burdick, D-N. D., submitted the questions, including one asking specifically about Carto, a leader of the Liberty Lobby.

THE MEMORANDUM responding to the questions was delivered yesterday to committee chairman James O. Eastland, D-Miss., by J. G. Sourwine, counsel of the internal security subcommittee.

Otepka was ordered dismissed in 1963 from his State Department post after his superiors accused him of unauthorized disclosure of personnel files to the subcommittee, a unit of the Judiciary Committee.

The subcommittee, which had received testimony from Otepka about lax department security practices, strongly protested. In 1967, after reviewing the case, then-Secretary of State Dean Rusk changed the dismissal order to demotion, transfer and reprimand.

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