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Nixon Names Otepka to \$36,000 Post on Panel on

By ROBERT B. SEMPLE Jr.
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WASHINGTON, March 19—President Nixon today named Otto F. Otepka, a controversial State Department official who was suspended from a key security post by former Secretary of State Dean Rusk, to a post on the Subversive Activities Control Board.

The job pays \$36,000 a year. The appointment appeared to have ended a long and acrimonious dispute between the State Department and various influential Congressmen over Mr. Otepka's activities as the department's chief security evaluator in 1963.

His nomination, however, is subject to Senate confirmation, which means that the controversy may persist. Mr. Nixon is

expected to submit Mr. Otepka's name formally to the Senate for confirmation in a few days.

Mr. Otepka, 54 years old, was suspended from his job as chief of the State Department's evaluation division in September, 1963, on charges of turning over confidential departmental documents to the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

State Department Investigated

The subcommittee was then investigating what it regarded as ineffective security practices in the State Department.

The subcommittee insisted that it was entitled to the documents, but the State Department ruled that Mr. Otepka had violated a 1948 order from President Truman forbidding

unauthorized disclosure of executive department files.

Bolstered by the support of Senator James O. Eastland, Democrat of Mississippi, and others, Mr. Otepka appealed the dismissal.

After lengthy hearings, he was formally reprimanded by Mr. Rusk in December, 1967, reassigned and demoted to a \$15,106-a-year job. He had drawn \$20,585 as chief security evaluator.

Mr. Otepka, whose case became a major issue among some political conservatives, went on administrative leave last April while appealing the Rusk decision to the Civil Service Commission. The commission ruled against him last May.

During the Presidential campaign—in an interview reported last October by Willard Ed-

wards, a columnist for The Chicago Tribune — Mr. Nixon was quoted as having promised a "full and exhaustive review" of the Otepka case, "with a view to seeing that justice is accorded this man who served his country so long and so well."

Mr. Otepka was reported to have taken heart when he heard about the interview, but his hopes of being restored to his old job were shattered when Secretary of State William P. Rogers, in a letter written in February, informed him that he had reviewed the case and that all legal remedies had been exhausted within the executive branch.

Instead of ending the case, however, the Rogers letter touched off another round of controversy. Mr. Otepka's

Subversives

friends charged that Mr. Nixon had reneged on his reported campaign statement to do "justice" to the former security evaluator and demanded some form of redress.

In early March, reports began circulating on Capitol Hill that Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois, the Senate Republican leader, had proposed a compromise solution to mollify some of the President's more conservative supporters. The solution was to appoint Mr. Otepka to the Subversive Activities Control Board.

Mr. Dirksen has denied that he was the sponsor of the idea.

Asked whether the President's decision amounted to a "vindication" of the security specialist, the President's press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, said:

No continuation