

## Right-Wing 'Danger'

# ADA Urges Senate To Reject Otepka

### Washington

The Americans for Democratic Action, a liberal lobbying group, attacked Otto Otepka's appointment to the Subversive Activities Control Board yesterday as the first act of a "dangerous" right-wing scenario.

The ADA urged members of the Senate to reject Otepka's appointment or send it back to the Judiciary Committee for "further hearings on his right-wing activity."

In a letter sent to all senators, ADA vice chairman Joseph L. Rauh Jr. protested that Otepka might well wind up "in charge of investigating all federal employees."

President Nixon named Otepka to the board after the State Department's former chief security evaluator lost a long legal fight for reinstatement. He had been ousted in 1963 after giving classified documents to the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Internal Security.

### NEW AGENCY

Rauh pointed out that under a bill sponsored by Otepka's staunchest supporters in the Senate, a new government agency would be set up to check all federal employees for security risks.

The bill would permit SACB chairman to head the new security agency and, Rauh said, Mr. Nixon could name Otepka as chairman so long as the Senate appoints

him to the board to begin with.

Recently, Rauh said Senator Strom Thurmond (Rep-C.), an outspoken Otepka supporter, was quoted as saying that with passage of this bill, "Mr. Otepka will once again deal with security evaluation, not only for the State Department, but for the whole of government."

### BIRCHERS

Alluding to financial support for Otepka by members of the John Birch Society and his attendance at meetings run by Birch leaders, Rauh contended that the Senate, if it confirms him, "would be adopting a double standard as between the extreme right and extreme left."

The Senate, Rauh argued, would never consider appointing a man who "has accepted funds from members of the Communist party" and "has appeared at meetings run by leaders of the Communist party."

Otepka's supporters, on the other hand, have complained that he has been the victim of a double standard and tainted by liberals with "guilt by association."

The issue is expected to come up on the Senate floor in a few days. Otepka was praised highly Wednesday in a Senate Judiciary Committee majority report as "a fine example of the best type of career civil servant."

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