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Party Task Carries Risk, Otepka Told

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The State Department has advised Otto F. Otepka, one of its former top security officers who now holds down a desk without duties, that if he appears before the Republican Platform Committee in San Francisco he will do so at his own risk.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk last fall dismissed Otepka from his position as chief of the evaluations division of the security office on the ground that he disclosed confidential information to unauthorized persons.

In a July 2 letter to the Deputy Under Secretary of State for Administration, William J. Crockett, Otepka asked permission to accept a GOP invitation to appear at San Francisco.

Crockett asked the Civil Service Commission for a ruling. The Commission replied that the Hatch Act "specifically prohibits an employe from actively engaging in partisan political management or in partisan political campaigns."