

HEARINGS RELATING TO H.R. 15626, H.R. 15649, H.R. 16613, H.R. 16757, H.R. 15018, H.R. 15092, H.R. 15229, H.R. 15272, H.R. 15336, AND H.R. 15828, AMENDING THE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES CONTROL ACT OF 1950

Part 1

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1968

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES,
Washington, D.C.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A subcommittee of the Committee on Un-American Activities met, pursuant to call, at 10:10 a.m., in Room 311, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C., Hon. Edward E. Willis (chairman) presiding.

(Subcommittee members: Representatives Edwin E. Willis, of Louisiana, chairman; William M. Tuck, of Virginia; John C. Culver, of Iowa; John M. Ashbrook, of Ohio; and Albert W. Watson, of South Carolina.)

Subcommittee members present: Representatives Willis, Culver, and Ashbrook.

Staff members present: Chester D. Smith, general counsel, and Alfred M. Nittle, counsel.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order.

We meet today to receive the views of Members of Congress, representatives of the executive branch of the Government, and other interested persons and organizations with respect to a number of related bills which would amend the Subversive Activities Control Act of 1950. These bills include H.R. 15626 and bills identical to it, H.R. 15649, H.R. 16613, and H.R. 16757; H.R. 15018 and bills identical to it, H.R. 15092, H.R. 15229, and H.R. 15272; H.R. 15336; and sections 203 and 204 of H.R. 15828. These bills have been sponsored by 45 members of the House of Representatives.

All of these bills include provisions designed to remedy a Supreme Court decision of December 11, 1967, in the case of *United States v. Eugene Frank Robel*, which voided section 5(a)(1)(D) of the Subversive Activities Control Act of 1950.

That section of the act made it unlawful for any member of a "Communist-action organization," with knowledge or notice that such organization is registered or that there is in effect a final order of the Subversive Activities Control Board requiring such organization to register, "to engage in any employment in any defense facility."

The Court held the section void for "overbreadth" and hence unconstitutionally abridging the "right of association" protected by the first amendment.