

The CHAIRMAN. Charlie, will you come forward?

**STATEMENT OF HON. CHARLES E. BENNETT, A U.S.
REPRESENTATIVE FROM FLORIDA**

Mr. BENNETT. Yes, sir. I have a very brief statement, which I will read.

My assistant has copies, which I guess he has given out or he is giving them out at this point.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your giving me this opportunity to appear before the committee in support of legislation to fill recognized gaps in our internal security laws.

As you know last December the Supreme Court declared an important section of the Subversive Activities Control Act unconstitutional. The Court told us that we could not make it unlawful that a member of a Communist organization be employed in a defense facility. This decision—*U.S. against Robel*—brought to the public's attention the urgent new need for effective legislation to combat subversives in our defense plants, and 13 members of the House Armed Services Committee joined me in introducing H.R. 15018 on February 1, 1968, to do just this. I am happy to know that so many other Members have also expressed their concern over the need for effective legislation in this field by the introduction of similar legislation.

Under my bill the Secretary of Defense is authorized and directed to designate certain industrial plants or facilities "defense facilities," and the employees of such a facility will be required to sign a statement that they know the facility is so designated. The President is then authorized to institute such measures or regulations as may be necessary to bar from employment in such facilities any person concerning whom there is reasonable grounds to believe that he is disposed and has the opportunity by reason of his employment to engage in sabotage, espionage, or other subversive acts against his employer, and therefore against the United States.

The legislation would authorize reasonable inquiries directed to an individual regarding his affiliations, membership, beliefs, or activities, which are relevant to determine whether there are reasonable—and I stress *reasonable*—grounds to believe that he may engage in sabotage, espionage, or other subversive acts as an employee in the defense facility. Before a person could be deprived of employment he would be notified of the reasons for the action proposed against him and given a reasonable opportunity to present information in his behalf and defend himself against such action.

This bill would also give the President authority to seek a temporary or permanent injunction, restraining order, or other order against the management of defense facilities in accordance with the act to prevent the employment of a person found to be disposed toward and having the opportunity to engage in sabotage, espionage, or other subversive acts against his employer.

I believe this legislation meets the test of "fairness" as applied by the Supreme Court. This bill does not infringe upon full freedom of association, yet it provides that important protection our defense facilities need against those who would seek to disrupt or impair the productive capabilities and military effectiveness of our country by sabotage, espionage, and other subversion.