

opportunity to appear before you. I appreciate your kindness in letting me testify, and thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, we are so glad to have you.

Mr. BENNETT. I am glad to be here. Unless there are any questions, I will leave.

The CHAIRMAN. Were you in the room when I drew a distinction between freedom of association under the first amendment and the practical application of that?

Mr. BENNETT. Yes; I thought your words were very well taken, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Well certainly it is an old adage that one rotten apple at least can contaminate or taint all the apples that are touched. Isn't that true?

Mr. BENNETT. It is true.

The CHAIRMAN. Now certainly it is, and I am not talking about the Constitution, I am talking about practical life. I would doubt that very few parents in viewing the heyday of prohibition would have been proud to see there their son's associations with the racketeers of the day, would they?

I don't suppose so. So there is this kind of distinction in practical life of freedom of association and in the technical aspect of the Supreme Court. Nevertheless if you say too much about it, it appears they are going to knock it out; does it not?

Mr. BENNETT. Yes; the practical problem of this committee is to draft a piece of legislation which will meet the criteria of the Court.

The CHAIRMAN. I am having the Defense Department counsel to consult and I want to do everything I can to draft a bill and to come out with a piece of legislation that will comport and follow the decision so that even the Supreme Court can't knock it out.

Mr. BENNETT. Well, most of the bills that have been introduced—all of them, subsequent to the one which I introduced, contain the phrase "Communist and Communist-front organizations," and in my opinion, it is asking trouble with the Court by putting that in the bill.

Therefore I suggest that it be out.

The CHAIRMAN. That will be kept in mind, in going over the bill with a fine-tooth comb.

Mr. BENNETT. Because from what the Court said, it looks as if that might doom your bill to oblivion, by being declared unconstitutional. Of course we want an effective piece of legislation. We want something that is useful.

The CHAIRMAN. Oh, surely.

Mr. BENNETT. Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. By the way, talking about an effective piece of legislation, last year this committee reported out, and the Congress passed and the President signed, a bill having to do with the Subversive Activities Control Board.

The Senate provided in its version that the act would die unless the Attorney General filed proceedings to keep the Board alive within a year.

In conference between the Senate and House, in which we participated, or members of this committee participated, it was provided further that the Attorney General should report to Congress twice during the year.