

AMENDING SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES CONTROL ACT OF 1950 1407

Mr. SMITH. Yes.

A statement of Daniel J. O'Connor, chairman of the National Americanism Commission of The American Legion, on H.R. 15626.

The CHAIRMAN. Favoring?

Mr. SMITH. Right.

(The documents referred to follow:)

STATEMENT OF HON. EDWIN W. EDWARDS, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
FROM LOUISIANA

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

As you know, I am a cosponsor of the bill now before you, H.R. 15626. I believe this proposed legislation is vitally necessary in the interests of our national security.

The bill deals with security measures relating to defense facilities. This is a vital area calling for close and rigid control. That which constitutes a "defense facility" is expressly and specifically defined in the bill, leaving no room for misunderstanding and no room for the charge of "vagueness." The definitions are clear and comprehensive covering the field of Government operations to which the bill is directed.

An important part of the bill is that which would restore life to section 5(a)(1)(D) of the Subversive Activities Control Act of 1950, which made it unlawful for members of Communist-action organizations to engage in employment in defense facilities. In the case of *United States v. Robel* the Supreme Court in its decision of December 11, 1967, held that section of the law involved to be unconstitutional for "overbreadth," in violation of the right of association protected by the first amendment. The bill, by its terms, seeks to narrow the interdiction of the section and to supply safeguards to meet the objections of the Supreme Court, thus retaining the effectiveness of the basic purposes of that section of the Act of 1950.

I doubt if any reasonable man with due regard for the national security of this country can be heard to say that members of Communist-action groups should be given employment in such sensitive areas as our defense facilities. H.R. 15626 seeks to see to it that they are not permitted employment in such vital areas.

Make no mistake about it, Communist influences are at work in this country today. Never before in our history has the Government needed more protection for its essential activities than it needs today. Communist-action, Communist-dominated, and Communist-infiltrated groups are active, seeking to take advantage of any and all of our weaknesses to make this country an easier prey to Godless communism. The damage that can be done to our national security in such sensitive places as defense facilities is indeed apparent and very real.

The bill authorizes a comprehensive security program in the fields to which it pertains. It authorizes measures for a security clearance program for workers in defense facilities; gives the sanction of the Congress to measures for an industrial security clearance program for protection of classified information released to industry engaged in essential work for the Government; it gives express congressional authority to institute a personnel security program for access to vessels, harbors, ports, and waterfront facilities under the Magnuson Act. Moreover, it not only authorizes the strengthening of security measures, but provides for safeguards against any possible maladministration of the law that might be offensive to individual freedoms.

I am proud to be one of the sponsors of this bill introduced by your distinguished chairman, Edwin Willis, in the interest of our national security. It deserves enactment into law by the Congress and vigorous enforcement by the executive department.

STATEMENT OF HON. WALTER S. BARING, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AT
LARGE FROM NEVADA, ON BEHALF OF H.R. 15649, TO AMEND THE
SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES CONTROL ACT OF 1950

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity to make a statement on the legislation before this committee, H.R. 15649, and related bills. I am sure I do not have to stress before this committee the urgency and necessity of this legislation.