

1454 AMENDING SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES CONTROL ACT OF 1950

This committee is doing an excellent job. I was pleased to be one of the sponsors with Mr. Willis, along with the members of this committee, of H.R. 15626. I think it is widely important that this committee go into this bill fully and report it out and that the Congress enact it and that it be adopted into law.

It is one means of saving America, trying to salvage something for our people. I think it will go a long way toward trying to correct some of the decisions that have been so detrimental in recent years.

I ask unanimous consent to file a statement.

Mr. TUCK. Your statement will be filed and I take this opportunity to thank the gentleman from Virginia for his cooperation, not only as a copatron of the bill, but for his cooperation in bringing to us the information which he has collected.

(Congressman Abbitt's prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF HON. W. M. ABBITT OF VIRGINIA

Mr. Chairman: I wish to express my appreciation to you and other members of the committee for inviting me to present my views with reference to H.R. 15626, which I cosponsored and which is the subject of hearings currently being conducted by the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Recent court decisions have rendered ineffective certain parts of the Subversive Activities Control Act of 1950, and it is essential that Congress take some action in order to plug the loopholes created by these decisions and to deal with the problems which have resulted.

I personally do not believe that the Communist infiltration menace to our country has lessened to any degree whatever. On the contrary, it is my view that we need to guard with more vigor than ever before the constitutional freedoms which the Subversive Activities Control Act of 1950 intended to protect. That act made it unlawful for members of Communist-action organizations to engage in employment in a defense facility, but the Supreme Court in *United States v. Robel* has largely voided this action. Other court decisions have made ineffective various sections of the act and an enumeration of these decisions and their effect is unnecessary at this point inasmuch as considerable testimony has already been given.

The real issue here seems to be whether the Congress should take action to overcome the problems raised by the courts in their decisions on provisions of the law. I do not believe there is any question but that Congress should move and move expeditiously in order that there not be any great concern on the part of the general public as to our intentions in this regard, although the situation has changed considerably since the basic law was passed nearly 2 decades ago. The threat to our security has increased if anything and certainly has not been lessened either by actions of the Communists overseas or by subversives here at home. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and other agencies of the Government have clearly indicated that subversives are constantly at work in the United States, and the evidence of their successes is still considerable.

I call upon the committee to take immediate action with reference to the problems which have been considered and which would be dealt with in the bill before you at this time.

May 1, 1968.

Mr. TUCK. Our next witness is Mr. Albert E. Green, assistant chief counsel, United States Coast Guard.

Mr. Green, we are delighted to have you before our committee this morning and we look forward to hearing your statement.

You may proceed.