

Mr. WATSON. Mr. Chairman, may I interrupt at this point? What were your recommendations to the Attorney General as to whether or not he proceed with anything against these people?

Mr. YEAGLEY. I would have to beg off on that. I don't like to beg off in answering questions—

Mr. TUCK. I can't hear the witness.

Mr. YEAGLEY. I think I have to beg off on an answer to that question. I don't like to refuse to answer questions of a congressional committee, but when I make recommendations to the Attorney General, I feel he is the one who should release such information or recommendations if he chooses to do so.

I don't think I should say what my position was before he takes a stand himself. I don't think it is fair and I don't think it is good business. I must apologize for not answering any further, but I don't think I should.

Mr. WATSON. You realize the importance of this particular matter because under the legislation this Board is going to go out of existence if no proceedings are filed within 1 year.

I don't want to preempt your questions, Mr. Chairman, but you have it within your power this time to abolish this Board and what we are trying to do, and at least I am concerned with whether you have even recommended any proceedings.

Mr. YEAGLEY. I appreciate your interest. That is why we have stepped up our program and have assigned extra men to review these cases.

Mr. WATSON. Are you aware that back during proceedings here in hearings some of these people admitted publicly and in written statements that they were Communists?

Mr. YEAGLEY. Yes, I know there have been a good many people over the years who have either admitted or held themselves out to be members of the Communist Party.

Mr. WATSON. Yet you are not at liberty to indicate whether you have recommended proceedings against those individuals?

Mr. YEAGLEY. No, I don't feel I should at this time. I think the Attorney General can. I don't have any objection if he does.

Mr. TUCK. Mr. Culver?

Mr. CULVER. Mr. Yeagley, in 1950 when the legislation was enacted by the Congress establishing the Subversive Activities Control Board, it was the combined recommendation to the President, then President Truman, of all United States security divisions uniformly that this legislation would not be useful in the effort understandably to contain the activities of internal subversives in the United States and, on the contrary, would hinder and hamper, rather than help, their efforts and responsibilities in that regard.

On that basis, President Truman vetoed that legislation. The Congress passed the legislation over his veto as you are very much aware.

Now, President Truman in his veto message, I think, had some very prophetic observations about the fate and the future of the Subversive Activities Control Board, and it seems to me the past 18 years we have seen the Board unsuccessfully operate and fail to register one Communist and in fact be embroiled in the constitutional and legal thicket which President Truman predicted.

Now, my question to you is: During the past 18 years, has the existence of that Board been of assistance to you?