

76TH CONGRESS
3^D SESSION

H. R. 9849

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 1940

Mr. VOORHIS of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require the registration of certain organizations carrying on activities within the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 That for the purposes of this Act—

4 (a) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of
5 State;

6 (b) The term “organization” means any group, club,
7 league, society, committee, association, political party, or
8 combination of individuals, whether incorporated or other-
9 wise, but such term shall not include any church, corporation,
10 community chest, fund, or foundation which the Secretary
11 determines is organized for, and engaged in good faith ex-

clusively in, activities in furtherance of religious, charitable, scientific, scholastic, or academic pursuits, or in furtherance of the fine arts;

(c) The term "political activity" means any activity the purpose or aim of which, or one of the purposes or aims of which, is the establishment, control, conduct, seizure, or overthrow of a government or subdivision thereof;

(d) An organization shall be deemed to be engaged in "civilian military activity" if (1) it gives instruction to, or prescribes instruction for, its members in military or naval science, or (2) it receives from any other organization or from any individual instruction in military or naval science, or (3) it engages in any military or naval maneuvers or activities, or (4) it engages, either with or without arms, in drills or parades of a military or naval character; and

(e) An organization shall be deemed "subject to foreign control" if (1) it solicits or accepts financial contributions, loans, or support of any kind, directly or indirectly, from, or is affiliated directly or indirectly with, a foreign government or a political subdivision thereof, or an agent, agency, or instrumentality of a foreign government or political subdivision thereof, or a political party in a foreign country, or an international political organization, or (2) its policies, or any of them, are determined by or at the suggestion of, or in collaboration with, a foreign government

or political subdivision thereof, or an agent, agency, or instrumentality of a foreign government or a political subdivision thereof or a political party in a foreign country, or an international political organization.

SEC. 2. (a) The following organizations shall be required to register with the Secretary as hereinafter provided:

(1) Every organization subject to foreign control which engages in political activity;

(2) Every organization which engages both in civilian military activity and in political activity; and

(3) Every organization, the purpose or aim of which, or one of the purposes or aims of which, is the establishment, control, conduct, seizure, or overthrow of a government or subdivision thereof by the use of force, violence, military measures, or threats of any one or more of the foregoing. Every such organization shall register by filing with the Secretary, on such form and in such detail as the Secretary may by rules and regulations prescribe, a registration statement containing the information and documents prescribed in subsection (c) and shall within thirty days after the expiration of each period of six months succeeding the filing of such registration statement, file with the Secretary, on such forms and in such detail as the Secretary may by rules and regulations prescribe, a supplemental statement con-

1 taining such information and documents as may be necessary
 2 to make the information and documents previously filed
 3 under this section accurate and current with respect to such
 4 preceding six months' period. Every statement required to
 5 be filed by this section shall be subscribed, under oath, by all
 6 of the officers of the organization.

7 (b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall be deemed to re-
 8 quire registration or the filing of any statement with the
 9 Secretary by (1) the armed forces of the United States,
 10 or (2) the organized militia or National Guard of any
 11 State, Territory, District, or possession of the United States,
 12 or (3) any law-enforcement agency of the United States
 13 or of any Territory, District, or possession thereof, or of
 14 any State or political subdivision of a State, or of any agency
 15 or instrumentality of one or more States, or (4) any duly
 16 established diplomatic mission or consular office or other
 17 official agency of a foreign government which is so recog-
 18 nized by the Department of State.

19 (c) Every registration statement required by subsec-
 20 tion (a) to be filed by any organization shall contain the
 21 following information and documents:

22 (1) The name and post-office address of the organiza-
 23 tion in the United States, and the names and addresses of
 24 all branches, chapters, and affiliates of such organization;

25 (2) The name, address, and nationality of each officer,

1 and of each person who performs the functions of an officer,
 2 of the organization, and of each branch, chapter, and affli-
 3 ate of the organization;

4 (3) The qualifications for membership in the organi-
 5 zation;

6 (4) The existing and proposed aims and purposes of the
 7 organization, and the means by which these aims or pur-
 8 poses are being attained or are to be attained;

9 (5) The address or addresses of meeting places of the
 10 organization, and of each branch, chapter, or affiliate of the
 11 organization, the times of such meetings, and a copy of the
 12 minutes or journal of every such meeting;

13 (6) The name and address of each person who has
 14 contributed any money, dues, property, or other thing of
 15 value to the organization or to any branch, chapter, or af-
 16 filiate of the organization;

17 (7) A detailed statement of the assets of the organi-
 18 zation, and of each branch, chapter, and affiliate of the
 19 organization, the manner in which such assets were ac-
 20 quired, and a detailed statement of the liabilities and income
 21 of the organization and of each branch, chapter, and affiliate
 22 of the organization;

23 (8) A detailed description of the activities of the
 24 organization, and of each chapter, branch, and affiliate of
 25 the organization;

1 (9) A description of the uniforms, badges, insignia, or
2 other means of identification prescribed by the organization,
3 and worn or carried by its officers or members, or any of
4 such officers or members;

5 (10) A copy of each book, pamphlet, leaflet, or other
6 publication or item of written, printed, or graphic matter
7 issued or distributed directly or indirectly by the organiza-
8 tion, or by any chapter, branch, or affiliate of the organi-
9 zation, or by any of the members of the organization under
10 its authority or within its knowledge;

11 (11) A description of all firearms or other weapons
12 owned by the organization, or by any chapter, branch, or
13 affiliate of the organization, identified by the manufacturer's
14 number thereon;

15 (12) In case the organization is subject to foreign
16 control, the manner in which it is so subject;

17 (13) A copy of the charter, articles of association,
18 constitution, bylaws, rules, regulations, agreements, resolu-
19 tions, and all other instruments relating to the organization,
20 powers, and purposes of the organization and of each branch,
21 chapter, and affiliate of the organization, and to the powers
22 of the officers of the organization and of each chapter,
23 branch, and affiliate of the organization; and

24 (14) Such other information and documents pertinent
25 to the purposes of this Act as the Secretary may from time
26 to time require.

1 All statements filed under this section shall be public
2 records and open to public examination and inspection at all
3 reasonable hours under such rules and regulations as the
4 Secretary may prescribe.

5 SEC. 3. The Secretary is authorized at any time to make,
6 amend, and rescind such rules and regulations as may be
7 necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, including
8 rules and regulations governing the statements required to
9 be filed by this Act.

10 SEC. 4. Any violation of any of the provisions of this
11 Act shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$
12 or by imprisonment for not more than , or both.
13 Whoever in a statement filed pursuant to section 2 willfully
14 makes any false statement or willfully omits to state any
15 fact which is required to be stated, or which is necessary
16 to make the statements made not misleading, shall, upon
17 conviction, be subject to a fine of not more than \$
18 or to imprisonment for not more than , or both.

19 SEC. 5. If any provision of this Act, or the applica-
20 tion thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid,
21 the remainder of the Act, and the application of such pro-
22 visions to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected
23 thereby.

24 SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect on the ninetieth day
25 after the date of its enactment, except that prior to such

- 1 ninetieth day the Secretary may make, amend, or rescind
- 2 such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry
- 3 out the provisions of this Act.

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