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Citizens Vote Secret Board To Hunt Spies

Would Cooperate With FBI in War On Fifth Column

The Federation of Citizens Associations last night empowered its executive board to set up a secret committee which would investigate "fifth column" activities in the Nation's Capital.

The executive body also was given authorization to create a standing committee on security which would cooperate with Federal authorities on preparedness measures here "in the present grave emergency."

The national defense resolution, in effect, called upon the federation's 40,000 members in the District to take an active part in reporting and checking on persons suspected of being foreign agents.

Would Notify F.B.I.

In its turn the secret committee would then make superficial investigation to weed out "crackpot" complaints and quickly relay its information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Following the unanimous adoption of the resolution, Harry N. Stull, president of the federation, announced that he would call a meeting of the executive committee this week to set up machinery at once to combat subversive activities here.

The resolution, as finally adopted after long debate and warnings against hysteria, pledged the federation to give the Government "our fullest cooperation in the present grave emergency," and declared that the executive committee was "authorized and instructed to take all steps necessary to make the pledge of cooperation effective."

Finch Opens Move

By inference, the broad resolution instructed the executive body to consider practical applications of proposals previously seeking the defense and security committees.

Wilbur Finch, Burroughs delegate and president of the District Suffrage Association, opened the discussion with a request that a special undercover defense committee be created "to receive and investigate" complaints of activities detrimental to American peace, order and security.

A supplementary proposal was offered by Culver B. Chamberlain, representing Cathedral Heights-Cleveland Park, who asked for creation of a standing committee to cooperate with the authorities in "placing the Capital in a state of preparedness."

Opposition to provisions of secrecy was voiced by A. D. Calvert, of Lincoln Park. "We can't fight secrecy on the part of subversive agents with open-handed tactics," rebutted William J. Tucker, of Anacostia.

The adopted resolution, introduced by Jesse Suter, Society of Natives delegate, gives the executive board the full powers of the assembly during its summer adjournment. The delegates will not meet again until October.

Favors Radio Ban on Reds

The delegates also demanded that the Federal Communications Commission suspend its ruling which requires all broadcasting chains to give time to all Presidential candidates and urged a ban on "parties or persons advocating the overthrow of our Government by force" and on all "agents or affiliates of any foreign government espousing world revolution."

Harry S. Wender, who presented the resolution, said that it applied equally to Bundists and Communists, but was the immediate result of a scheduled broadcast today by Earl Browder, Communist party leader.

Other actions of the federation are as follows:

A report recommending reduction of the maximum fine for pedestrian control law violations from \$300 to \$50 was approved.

Request for experiments in the block traffic signal system was turned down, but Congress was urged to allocate funds for establishment of an automatic signal system which would be timed according to traffic volume.

Permanent Traffic Judge

A permanent traffic judge was urged for Police Court together with adoption of a system of uniform fines and penalties.

Extension of police power to impound illegally parked autos was asked.

The assembly supported the Benning Citizens move for an Anacostia River bridge at East Capitol street.

A report requesting an eight-room addition for Eliot Junior High School and a new school in the North Randle area was also approved.

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