

Part 10/26/72

For the Record . . .

A Whiff of the Debate Over SACB Appropriations

The following is excerpted from Senate debate of Oct. 13 on the State-Justice-Commerce appropriations conference report, which included \$350,000 for the Subversive Activities Control Board:

Mr. ERVIN. (The Senate) adopted an amendment which I suggested. This amendment had the effect of providing that none of the appropriations for the SACB could be used to implement the executive order by which the President undertook to expand the powers of the board beyond its statutory powers. As I understand it, the conference committee retained this amendment.

Mr. PASTORE. It certainly did.

Mr. ERVIN. There was also an amendment . . . which eliminated from the bill when it was before the Senate the entire appropriation for the SACB. As I understand the conference report . . . the appropriation was reduced approximately \$100,000, but the SACB is still permitted to exercise any statutory powers it might have if its powers are constitutional.

Mr. PASTORE. The point is that even if all its money were eliminated, the board would still have statutory authority . . . The only way we can get rid of the agency is, of course, by legislative action. I would hope that would occur.

Mr. ERVIN. I cannot see that there is much that the members of the board can do during this fiscal year except to draw their breaths and their salaries.

Mr. PASTORE. Or resign . . .

Mr. HRUSKA. . . . I fully agree with the sentiment that this is a legislative matter and should be decided on that basis. Personally, this senator will try to see to it that some mechanism, some agency, will be charged with this particular effort, which is based upon personnel security . . . The executive order, if it were implemented, would change the name of the board . . . and assign to it different duties and responsibilities . . .

Mr. ERVIN. I say to my good friend, the senator from Nebraska, that it is said a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, but a crushed gentian weed by any other name would smell just as bad.