

June 11, 1971

Mr. Ronald L. Ziegler
Press Secretary
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Ziegler:

The Philadelphia Inquirer of July 9, 1971 carried a story stating that in an executive order signed on July 2 by President Nixon, the "Subversives Control Board" was given new and broader powers, including the power to "determine whether any organization is totalitarian, Fascist, Communist, subversive," or advocates the use of violence.

I would appreciate a copy of that executive order plus any press releases which accompanied it. I believe I am entitled to this information under the law.

The article to which I have referred mentioned legislation sent to Congress by the Attorney General to rename the panel the "Federal Internal Security Board" and give it increased subpoena and contempt powers. Also quoted were related letters sent to Carl Albert and Vice President Agnew. I would also appreciate a copy of the legislation and the two letters.

Thanking you in advance for your troubles, I remain

Sincerely,

Howard Roffman
8829 Blue Grass Rd.
Phila., Pa. 19152

P.S. If for any reason any of the above requested information is denied to me, I would appreciate the citation of the law or regulation under which such denial is made, and would like to be informed of my channels of appeal under such laws.

Nixon Revitalizes Powers Of Subversives Control Board

Inquirer
7/9/71

By CLARK HOYT

From Our Wire Services

WASHINGTON. — President Nixon is pumping fresh life into the controversial Subversive Activities Control Board by giving it broad new powers and trying to change its name.

The board, which does not have enough work to keep busy, according to its chairman, will be assigned to update the attorney general's list of subversive organizations.

The task, board sources said, could lead to public hearings into such domestic groups as the Black Panthers, Ku Klux Klan and the Weatherman faction of Students for a Democratic Society.

Limited until now to naming Communist front organizations controlled by Moscow, the board has been empowered by Mr. Nixon to "determine whether any organization is totalitarian, Fascist, Communist, subversive," or advocates the use of violence to deprive others of their rights.

As before, the board can only act upon a petition from the attorney general. The indi-



ATTY. GEN. MITCHELL
... plans full use

cations were Thursday that Attorney General John Mitchell, unlike his predecessors in recent years; intends to make full use of the panel.

The board's new powers were created by an executive order signed July 2 by Mr. Nixon. The order was not announced until a week later.

Mitchell sent legislation to Capitol Hill Thursday to rename the panel as the Federal Internal Security Board and to give it increased subpoena and contempt powers.

In letters to House Speaker Carl Albert and Vice President Spiro Agnew, who is also president of the Senate,

Mitchell said the legislation would provide a "sounder basis" for updating the attorney general's list of subversive organizations.

The list of more than 250 groups, first compiled in 1953, has not been updated since Nov. 1, 1955. It is heavy with groups that no longer exist, such as the German American Bund and the Sakura Kai, composed of veterans of the 1905 Russo-Japanese War.

A source on the Subversive Activities Control Board estimated that fully 80 percent of the present attorney general's list is out of date.

Yet, a Justice Department spokesman said, the list is still used as a guide for granting security clearances and hiring employes for sensitive government jobs.

Members of the board, which has been attacked as useless by congressional critics, were clearly pleased with their new role.

Just this week, the five-member board, which has a staff of 10, was moved into large, thickly carpeted new offices in a just-completed Washington office building.

"We're in a new building with a new mission," said one staff aide.

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