

Post 7/2/71

SACB Member Admits Lack of Cases

United Press International

The Subversive Activities Control Board admitted yesterday it doesn't have enough to do to keep its members and 10-person staff busy.

In fact, SACB Chairman John W. Mahan conceded under questioning before a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee, the board heard only three witnesses last year.

The five members of the board, appointed by the president, each receives a \$36,000 yearly salary; the average staff salary is \$14,480.

"What do you with the rest of your time?" demanded an astonished Sen. Allen J. Ellender, D-La.

"I spent some time in the

House and Senate trying to correct the law so we can work more effectively," answered Mahan.

"That's not what you're paid to do," shot back Ellender.

"We do not have enough to fill our time, that's right, sir," said Mahan.

"If you're not occupied, isn't this a waste of time and effort?" Ellender asked. "I wonder if we should continue this board, quite frankly."

The SACB was established initially to determine, at the request of the Justice Department, whether individuals or organizations should be classified as communist under the Subversive Activities Control Act of 1950. But the act

has been made vitually inoperative by a series of court decisions, leaving the board little to do.

Its 1971 fiscal year budget was \$414,000, of which \$334,000 was for salaries. Mahan asked the Senate to approve a \$450,000 budget for the current fiscal year, with the bulk of the increase going for pay raises and increased stenographic costs of transcribing hearings.

He said the board has three cases now before it dealing with suspected communist front organizations, which he did not identify. He said hearings have been held in New York City and in Pittsburgh and more will be scheduled

shortly—for a total of 10 hearing days this year.

Presently the board is one member short, as the Senate has taken no action on President Nixon's controversial nomination of Otto F. Otepka to a full four-year term.