

Subversive-Hunter Pleads His Case

By Stephen Isaacs
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Senate's veteran Communist hunter, Jay Sourwine, pleaded with senators yesterday not to terminate the Internal Security Subcommittee which he has directed for 25 years.

In the face of a pledge from Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) to do everything in his power to end the Sourwine era, Sourwine said subversive groups represent a clear and present danger to the security of the United States.

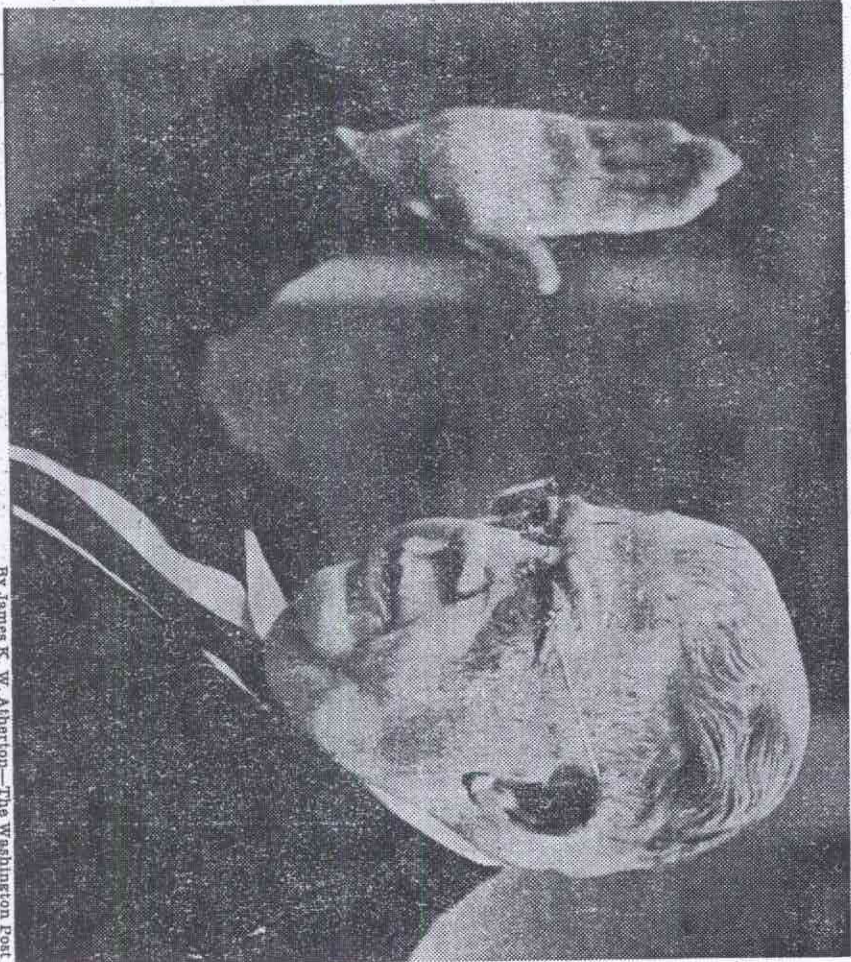
"I believe the Congress should be kept abreast of subversive activities," he said. "I believe the Congress should know about terrorist groups in this country . . . and the subversive influences within such groups, speaking specifically about Communist activity, Maoist activity, Red Chinese."

"I think the Congress should know about the Castro network in the United States. Right now, this is the only committee that would be expected to do it. . . . The House Internal Security Committee has been put out of business. The Subversive Activities Control Board has been out of business several years."

"I'm not arguing that I should do this," Sourwine maintained, "only that the Senate should do this."

The threat to end Sourwine's subcommittee brought Judiciary Committee Chairman James O. Eastland (D-Miss.) to the annual hearings of the Rule Committee.

Eastland usually has other senators or staff members make presentations for his subcommittees, but yesterday he was at Sourwine's side, as chairman of the Internal Security Subcommittee, as was Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), the ranking Republican on the subcommittee. Eastland said, "I think it



Jay Sourwine takes oath during testimony before Senate Rules Committee.

By James K. W. Aberton—The Washington Post

important that the Congress of the United States know it when a number of Americans are taken to Cuba, indoctrinated by Chinese agents, indoctrinated by Russian agents, and brought back to this country to spread communism."

The testimony of Sourwine and other subcommittee staff members was reminiscent of Sourwine's late ally, Sen. Joseph McCarthy (R-Wis.) and Communist-hunters of old.

Sourwine 66, and chief investigator Alfonso L. Tarabochia told of meeting informants across the United States

to glean details of subversive schemes to overthrow the government "by force and violence," as Sourwine put it.

When Rules Committee Chairman Howard W. Cannon (D-Nev.) questioned Sourwine about his and Tarabochia's pattern of trips during winter months to such places as San Juan, Miami, Las Vegas, St. Thomas, and other vacation spots the two told of hard toiling after information.

Sourwine told of locating a man near Las Vegas who had information on "plans for the sabotage of two dams," and of interviewing in San Bernar-

Sourwine's 1974 testimony indicating his subcommittee had no files on members of Congress and subsequent press reported that the then ordered subordinates to destroy files containing such information, asked that Sourwine testify under oath.

In the midst of his testimony, Sourwine rose and was sworn by Cannon.

Sourwine insisted again yesterday that no investigative files were kept on members of Congress, but said he asked an aide to check the files after his testimony last February and, at that time some files were destroyed.

Hatfield asked if raw data on members was included in the destroyed files, and Sourwine replied: "I think it's possible, but I do not know. Certainly it's possible."

Hatfield said that in 1950 the Senate set up the Internal Security Subcommittee with the idea that it would include is business by March 1, 1952. In its life span it has spent \$8,341,522, Hatfield said. Its 1975 budget request is \$400,000.

Hatfield said he intended to move to eliminate the subcommittee, and said the Rules Committee "could specifically state that no other funds from the Judiciary (Committee) budget could be utilized for the operation of the subcommittee as it is presently structured."

dino "a man in prison under a murder charge who had been involved in a program to set up cadres for the purpose of civil violence. It was a most horrendous plan. . . . He gave me information which will tie together two of the existing terrorist organizations and tends to show Mosist influence in both of them."

Sourwine acknowledged that after his testimony at hearings on committee findings last year he had some files destroyed that may have contained raw information on members of Congress. Hatfield, disturbed, over