

POST  
1/26/72

## Greater Love Hath no President . . .

Unpredictable as the way of a maid with a man is the love of a father for his brainchild, puny, warped and unprepossessing though it may be. Long, long ago in the hot season of his youth when he was Congressman Nixon and a member of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, the President sired something called the Mundt-Nixon bill. Though itself stillborn, this measure nevertheless managed to pass its essence on to a sibling of sorts titled the McCarran Act which, during the postwar neurosis over domestic communism, came to life under the alias of the Internal Security Act of 1950 and spawned a mongoloid offspring known as the Subversive Activities Control Board. Spurned by the Congress that created it as soon as that body's emotional health was restored, termed illegitimate by the courts, regarded with repugnance by lovers of liberty, the SACB somehow managed to preserve a precarious existence as a sinecure for political castoffs and otherwise unemployable hangers-on.

But Mr. Nixon never forsook it. On Monday, in a budget message embellished with warnings to Congress against over-spending, he asked that funds for the SACB be increased from a current

level of \$405,000 to \$706,000 and that the number of its employees—who, at present, have nothing whatever to do except cash their fat, fortnightly paychecks—be increased from 15 to 26.

But the President does not intend that the agency continue to be totally idle. He would like the SACB to investigate the groups and organizations which free citizens have chosen to join, and to determine whether these voluntary associations are to be designated desirable or undesirable, permissible or impermissible. He would turn the SACB into a kind of Federal Trade Commission in the area of political ideas.

If the sheer un-Americanism of this check upon the free exercise of the constitutional right of association is not apparent to the President, it surely ought to be recognized for what it is by the United States Congress. Political lists are the trappings of totalitarianism; they have no place in a free country. It is more than time to let the SACB slip back into the relatively innocuous desuetude which its members found so comfortable for so long—or, better still, to grant it the gift of legislative euthanasia when an appropriation for it is next proposed in Congress.