

Post 9-11-71
Use of the SACB

Your Sept. 6 editorial attacking the Subversive Activities Control Board on grounds the term "subversive" is so vague the SACB can blacklist any "group it doesn't like" is unnecessarily hysterical.

Other federal agencies, such as the Civil Aeronautics Board, Interstate Commerce Commission, Federal Communications Commission and Federal Power Commission, grant licenses on such vague standards as "public convenience and necessity"; the National Labor Relations Board determines "unfair labor practices"; the Renegotiation Board can recover "excess profits," to name a few.

All agency actions, including the SACB, are subject to constitutional due process, act on substantial evidence, and are subject to judicial review and congressional oversight. Theoretically, each agency can act against a "group it doesn't like"—but to suggest such a motivation is to impugn the integrity and indict the honor of all public officials who make decisions.

The Subversive Activities Control Board was established by President Roosevelt in 1939 — it was not created by President Nixon. He is simply trying to use it in the public interest the same as President Roosevelt did.

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