

# Subversive Unit Gets New Life

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — The Nixon Administration has moved to strengthen the Subversive Activities Control Board which has been under fire for lack of work, it was learned today.

An executive order by President Nixon gives the board the power to hold hearings to assist in determining what organizations should be classified as subversive by the attorney general.

### Three Witnesses

The order was published in the Federal Register without fanfare July 7 — one day after board Chairman John Mahan conceded during a stormy hearing in Congress that the board had heard only three witnesses last year.

At the same time, the Justice Department proposed legislation that would give the board subpoena and contempt-finding authority in connection with its new function. The legislation also would change the name of the Federal Internal Security Board.

The Subversive Activities Control Board is an independent, semijudicial agency that was created in 1950 at the peak of the cold war.

### Five Members

In recent years its work has fallen off almost completely. It is made up of five members, supported by a 10-man staff and a \$450,000 budget.

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said today he would try to block funds for the board for this year.

Until now, the attorney general has had the sole responsibility for determining whether an organization seeks to overthrow the government or unlawfully advocate violent acts to deny others their constitutional rights.