

SFChronicle

Tunney Blasts Nixon in S.F. Speech

Senator John V. Tunney (Dem-Calif.) yesterday launched a bitter attack against President Nixon's decision last month to expand the duties of the Subversive Activities Control Board.

He told 200 members of the Bar Association of San Francisco at a St. Francis Hotel luncheon that the board is "a useless and dangerous appendage of the federal bureaucracy."

"It has rendered no service of any value to the American people in the 21 years of its existence," he said, "and in-

stead of having its powers expanded . . . it ought to be abolished."

At a press conference earlier, Tunney said he was "appalled" by the President's action in expanding the board.

'RIDICULE'

"I don't think five political appointees (board members) should have the right to hold people up to ridicule . . ."

He said the very fact that a person is called before the board labels him a subversive.

During his speech, Tunney touched on telephone tapping and surveillance of citizens

by the military and the Department of Justice.

"I find the actions of the White House and the Justice Department to pose the greatest threat to civil liberties since the blind, prejudiced and paranoid fear of McCarthyism stalked the land," he said.

SUBVERSIVE

Under the President's executive order, the Subversive Activities Control Board would become the hearing board on groups that Attorney General John Mitchell believes should be designated subversive.

Membership in a group declared subversive could preclude employment in Federal, State or local governments.

Tunney said that Nixon's transfer of the hearing function to the board was "an end around Congress" and "legislation, by executive fiat."

It represents "a serious infringement" of the First Amendment of the Constitution, Tunney said.

Tunney is on a nine-day political swing through California that started last Saturday in San Diego.

One of his aides said that his \$450,000 election campaign deficit has been whittled down to about \$225,000 and will be almost eliminated by the year's end.