

Saxbe Report

A Reappraisal of Subversive List

Washington

The Justice Department is reappraising the need for its subversive organizations list, which has not been significantly changed since 1955, Attorney General William B. Saxbe said yesterday.

Improved relations with the Soviet Union and a generally more relaxed attitude toward international communism already may have made the list obsolete, Saxbe suggested.

Also under review, Saxbe said, are some federal internal security laws. He did not specify which ones. He indicated the constitutionality of some statutes governing subversive groups is being examined, but stressed that the Justice Department would not revamp internal security policy without the guidance of Congress.

The 1950s fears of Communist infiltration of large numbers of domestic organizations, the attorney general said, may have "exploded with the domino theory."

Four Justice Department divisions began on Tuesday a study of the list of nearly 300 so-called subversive groups, Saxbe said.

The purpose of the study is to "revise or get rid of" the list, he said, but until the re-evaluation is complete, he declined to say which he favors.

Saxbe said a study was first begun ten months ago, about the time former Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson took office, but was "put in limbo" during the frequent transitions in the top justice post.

"We're putting it back on the front burner," said Saxbe.

The Justice Department divisions currently studying the subversives list, Saxbe said, include the FBI, the criminal division, the office

Simon's New Job

Washington

President Nixon has chosen energy chief William E. Simon as secretary of the treasury to succeed George P. Shultz, the Washington Post learned yesterday.

The announcement may come as early as tomorrow.

Washington Post

of legal counsel and the office of criminal justice.

The list was compiled during World War II and was first made public under President Truman's 1947 executive order. It is for use by federal agencies in screening applicants for government employment.

With the dismantling of the Subversive Activities Control Board and justice's Internal Security Division early in 1973, the list has received little attention recently.

Saxbe suggested that because terrorism appears to be "emanating from different groups of people," some Communist-oriented groups on the list could be removed and some new organizations added.

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