

SFXaminer

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# Nixon abolishing subversives list?

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Nixon intends to abolish the attorney general's list of so-called subversive organizations, a product of the 1950s Red scare era, administration sources say.

The White House has drafted an executive order doing away with the list, and Nixon plans to sign it, the sources said.

Attorney General William Saxbe recommended the move, according to the sources.

"The list is irrelevant and legally we're in a bind on it," said a White House official. An official of the Justice Department's criminal division has called it "absolutely worthless."

In 1947, President Truman ordered the department to maintain a list of "totalitari-

an, Fascist, Communist or subversive" organizations as a tool for screening applicant for government jobs.

Four years later, the Supreme Court ruled that no group could be placed on the list without a hearing. Subsequent court decisions blocked the government from refusing to hire an applicant solely because of his membership in one of the questionable groups.

The list names some 300 organizations officially labeled subversive. Only about 20 still exist.

Nixon tried to revive the list three years ago by instructing the highly paid but unproductive Subversive Activities Control Board to monitor and update it. Congress opposed the move and cut off all funds for the board, which went out of business in 1973.

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