

# SUBVERSIVE UNIT FACES NEW FIGHT

## House Gets Bills on Future of the Control Board

WASHINGTON, May 24 (AP)—After two decades of dispute over the Government's hunt for subversives, Congress is ready for a new battle over Federal loyalty and security activities.

The House Rules Committee voted yesterday to send two bills to the floor for a decision on the fate of the Subversive Activities Control Board.

The House Internal Security Committee voted 5 to 1 last month to recommend a bill by Representative John M. Ashbrook, Ohio Republican. The bill, which has been endorsed by the Nixon Administration, would let the President expand the control board's powers and give legislative support to President Nixon's ideas for increasing the board's authority under the Internal Security Act of 1950.

In approving Ashbrook's bill, the committee set aside a measure backed by its chairman, Richard H. Ichord, Missouri Democrat. This bill would abolish the control board and set up a "constitutional oath support" law with new machinery to screen Federal job applicants on loyalty and security grounds.

### Main Bill and Substitute

The Rules Committee decided to send the Ashbrook bill to the House floor with the Ichord bill to be considered as a substitute. No date was set for floor action.

In its majority report sup-

porting the Ashbrook bill, the Internal Security Committee said, "Maintenance of a current and reasonably comprehensive Attorney General's list of subversive organizations is indispensable to the efficient operation of the Federal civilian employe loyalty and security program."

The control board did virtually nothing for months after its power to hunt, register and publicize Communist groups was overruled by the Supreme Court. Last July, President Nixon issued an executive order delegating to the board a new function of determining the character of subversive groups.

Mr. Nixon's order amended

a 1953 Presidential directive that is the basis for the present program of loyalty and security among civil servants.

The Ashbrook bill seeks to provide a sounder basis for updating the Attorney General's agencies to determine whether hiring a person would be in line with national security interests.