

House Vote SFChronicle MAY 31 1972

New Name for a Disputed Board

Washington

The House voted 226 to 105 yesterday to change the name of the controversial Subversive Activities Control Board and to authorize the President to give it new duties to keep it alive.

The agency would be called the Federal Internal Security Board under the legislation approved and sent to the Senate, where Senator Sam J. Ervin (Dem-N.C.) has vowed to kill it.

Sponsors of the change, led by Representative John M. Ashbrook (Rep-Ohio), maintained the legislation endorsed by the Nixon administration is necessary to protect the government from modern sources of subversion.

BOARD

The board was formed in 1950 to identify individuals and private organizations it regarded as Communist, but its powers have gradually been limited over the years by adverse Supreme Court rulings.

Also, the attorneys general who must initiate action before the board can make its findings have largely ignored the agency, and congressional liberals have repeatedly demanded that it be abolished.

The closest the House ever came to killing off the board was in July 1971, when a 246-141 vote defeated a liberal effort to cut off SACB financing. There are five members on the board, each making \$36,000 a year and the organization's last annual budget totaled \$450,000.

ORDER

Yesterday's House measure would leave unchanged

its old duties and in addition would give authority to President Nixon's executive order last July for SACB hearings aimed at determining whether present or prospective federal employees knowingly belong to an organization found to be subversive. This membership would be grounds for refusal to hire or a dismissal.

Mr. Nixon's order was challenged in federal court this year. A judge, while dismissing the suit, indicated he would set the order aside for vagueness and overbreadth if enforcement is attempted.

The House rejected by voice vote a substitute bill by Representative Richardson Preyer (Dem-N.C.) that would have abolished the SACB and set up a new commission to administer a federal employee security program, which would include screening of potential or current federal workers for their membership in subversive groups.

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