

Nixon Abolishes Subversives List

Washington

President Nixon has abolished the list of subversive organizations maintained by

the attorney general and used to screen applicants for government jobs, the White House and Justice Depart-

ment announced yesterday.

Mr. Nixon signed an executive order doing away with the list created in 1947 by President Truman.

Attorney General William B. Saxbe said he recommended the action because the list "was a sort of vestigial tail on the federal government's security programs."

Saxbe said "it is now very apparent it no longer serves any useful purpose."

Mr. Truman ordered the Justice Department to prepare and maintain the list at a time of widespread national concern about alleged Communist and subversives in government.

The list was widely criticized and the Supreme Court in 1951 ruled that no group could be placed on the list without a hearing.

In subsequent hearings, the court made it virtually impossible to deny an applicant a government job simply because of membership in a group designated as subversive.

"This list has long been a source of contention over both its fairness and its effectiveness," Saxbe said. "The arguments are now ended. The President's order not only abolishes the list but also forbids its use by every agency of the federal government."

Saxbe said "perhaps the most serious failing" of Mr. Truman's order was that it allowed the Justice Department to label groups as subversive without proper consideration for due process of law.

"If the list serves no other purpose now, it should continue to be a reminder that whatever we do must be fair and in full accord with the law and the protections its affords to all," he added.

The list, although it has languished in obscurity for some 20 years, still contained the names of about 360 groups. Only about 30 of the groups remain in existence.

They include such groups as the Communist Party U.S.A. and the Ku Klux Klan.

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