



Security Stirrings

FORMER Senator Cain has been making headlines by criticizing the current federal security program. After 2 years of experience as a member of the Subversive Activities Control Board, Cain has come to deplore a system that invites the use of hearsay, rumor, and association as a basis for branding a person as a security risk. He asks for the better selection of security officers, consideration of the nature of a particular job in weighing security requirements, revision of the present criteria of security, greater independence on the part of hearing boards, and a change from the current negative regulation that the employment of a person must be "clearly consistent" with national interest to the point of view that no person should be dismissed unless his employment is found to be "reasonably inconsistent with the national interest."

Cain's recommendations deserve special consideration because of his position and because of his history of right-wing conservatism. For similar reasons, the criticisms of Martin Dies have gained attention.

Several proposals for change or study have been made. The Senate has voted \$125,000 to the Post Office and Civil Service Committee for an investigation of the current security-risk program. The study has the support of chairman Olin D. Johnson (D., S.C.) and former chairman Frank Carlson (R., Kan.). Senator Johnson announced that the State Department had informed him that not one of the employees who had been named in the highly publicized 1950 charges of the junior senator from Wisconsin had been found to be "a Communist or disloyal to our Government."

Senators Humphrey (D., Minn.) and Stennis (D., Miss.) introduced a joint resolution calling for a bipartisan 12-member commission to conduct "a

careful reappraisal of our entire security system." Members would be drawn from official and civilian life. Representative Frelinghuysen (R., N.J.) introduced a companion resolution in the House. Representative Tumulty (D., N.J.) has proposed the creation of a special court for security cases.

Although there is not yet agreement upon a solution, some of the most reasonable and respected members of the Congress—on both sides of the political aisle—agree that improvement is necessary and that security measures must be removed from the kind of political charges and countercharges that marked the 1954 campaign.

From nongovernmental sources have come other evidences of desire for change. Freedom House, Inc., an educational and civic association working to strengthen democracy, has recommended a Presidential Commission on Security to determine whether current policies and practices carry "the risk of losing our lead in science and technology which freedom of inquiry has given us." The Fund for the Republic has made several grants for studies bearing on problems of security and civil liberties. One grant was to the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

One of the most significant features of the current stirring is its diverse origin. Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, members of the Congress and private citizens are all among those calling for serious reappraisal of security methods. Perhaps 1955, with no election in the offing, offers the best opportunity for a calm and reasonable approach that we have had since the problem assumed its present magnitude. Certainly the question will undergo Congressional investigation and public debate; both those who are satisfied with things as they are and those who hope for change will have opportunities to express their views—D.W.

SCIENCE, founded in 1880, is published each Friday by the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Business Press, Lancaster, Pa. SCIENCE is indexed in the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*.

All correspondence should be addressed to SCIENCE, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D. C. Manuscripts should be typed with double spacing and submitted in duplicate. The AAAS assumes no responsibility for the safety of manuscripts or for the opinions expressed by contributors.

Change of address: The notification should reach us four weeks in advance. If possible, please furnish an address stencil label from a recent issue. Be sure to give both old and new addresses, including postal zone numbers, if any.

Annual subscriptions: \$7.50; foreign postage, outside the Pan-American Union, \$1.00; Canadian postage, 50¢. Single copies 25¢. Special rates to members of the AAAS. **Cable address:** Advancesci Washington.

The AAAS also publishes THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY.