

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL SECURITY**

In October 1970, the House Committee on Internal Security [UnAmerican Affairs Committee "HUAC"] was on its last legs and almost forgotten. Congressman Ichord was Chairman. Suddenly I was faced with a complaint attacking the Committee that was difficult to believe. Plaintiffs provided documentary proof that the Committee had assembled a long list of individuals it believed were Communists or otherwise out to destroy the country by spreading their allegedly un-American beliefs. HUAC proposed to send the list to the officials and leading alumni of colleges and universities asking that persons listed be prevented from speaking on the campuses to student groups or faculty. The complaint asked that the Committee be enjoined from carrying out this obvious intrusion on First Amendment values, attempted in the hope of stemming subversion. I could not believe HUAC was seriously undertaking such a brash step, but it was soon clear Mr. Ichord planned to go full speed ahead. I felt something had to be done. Obviously a United States District Judge could not enjoin a committee of the House of Representatives, but HUAC had instructed the Public Printer to run off its implementing Resolution and the list for wide mailing. I enjoined the Public Printer from doing so.

The first reaction from the Hill was Ichord's rage. He had an issue! By speeches on the floor and elsewhere he sought to draw me into a debate. I did nothing. HUAC backed him up, but it needed approval of the House before the Public Printer could be directed to ignore my order. HUAC failed. First, it watered down the Resolution to meet criticism and finally the project was abandoned.

This was not immediate and my action had stirred up the old Martin Dies, Nixon-type of Red

baiters. Some nasty telephone calls and letters came in and for a while we were threatened by a man with a gun who came to my farm in Virginia on several occasions when I was not there, saying he was going to kill me. We took some precautions and the Loudoun County Sheriff ran him off.

This early small experience indicated that a deeply entrenched fear of alien ideas still remained in the minds of some people, and I was to learn how easy it was to play on these fears for political purposes as more serious cases came my way during the Nixon period. Indeed, looking back on the episode involving the Howard University riot, which resulted in my confrontation with Deputy Attorney General Kleindienst, it became more likely that his proposals for quelling the turmoil were more shrewdly political and less stupid than I had come to believe.

Hentoff v. Ichord, 318 F. Supp. 1175 (1970).