

FOREIGN PROPAGANDA

JULY 28, 1937.--Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. CELLER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1591]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1591) to require the registration of certain persons employed by agencies to disseminate propaganda in the United States and for other purposes, after consideration, report the same with amendments to the House, with the recommendation that as so amended the bill do pass.

The committee amendments are as follows:

Page 2, line 11, strike out the word "not" and insert in lieu thereof the word "nor", and in the same line after the word "person" insert a comma.

Page 2, line 12, after the word "agent" insert a comma.

Page 3, line 20, after the word "powers" insert the word "and", and in the same line after the word "purposes" strike out the remainder of the line and insert in lieu thereof a period.

Page 3, line 22, after the word "within" insert "30".

Page 4, line 17, after the word "rules" strike out the comma.

Page 4, line 18, strike out all of line 18 and insert in lieu thereof the following: "regulations as the Secretary may prescribe."

This bill was introduced as a result of recommendations of the special committee that was appointed in the Seventy-third Congress to investigate un-American activities in the United States. A very careful study was made of the organizations in this country which organizations aimed arbitrarily to group certain American citizens and persons in the United States, and to inculcate such principles and teachings in these persons as to influence the internal and external political policies of our country.

Incontrovertible evidence has been submitted to prove that there are many persons in the United States representing foreign governments or foreign political groups, who are supplied by such foreign

agencies with funds and other materials to foster un-American activities, and to influence the external and internal policies of this country, thereby violating both the letter and the spirit of international law, as well as the democratic basis of our own American institutions of government.

Evidence before the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, disclosed that many of the payments for this propaganda service was made in cash by the consul of a foreign nation, clearly giving an unmistakable inference that the work done was of such a nature as not to stand careful scrutiny.

As a result of such evidence, this bill was introduced, the purpose of which is to require all persons who are in the United States for political propaganda purposes—propaganda aimed toward establishing in the United States a foreign system of government, or group action of a nature foreign to our institutions of government, or for any other purpose of a political propaganda nature—to register with the State Department and to supply information about their political propaganda activities, their employers, and the terms of their contracts.

This required registration will publicize the nature of subversive or other similar activities of such foreign propagandists, so that the American people may know those who are engaged in this country by foreign agencies to spread doctrines alien to our democratic form of government, or propaganda for the purpose of influencing American public opinion on a political question.

Under the terms of the bill, no foreign corporation engaged in honorable trade relations with this country will find it necessary to register, but whenever representatives are sent here to spread by word or mouth, or by the written word, the ideology, the principle, and the practices of other forms of government and the things for which they stand, then registry must be made. All that is required is to label the sources of pernicious propaganda.

There is nothing in the bill to offend any nation, group, or individual. The bill requires no registration of duly accredited diplomatic or consular officials of a foreign government who are so recognized by the Department of State of the United States. Likewise, will the provisions of this measure have no reference to nor include any person performing only private, nonpolitical, financial, mercantile, commercial, or other activity in furtherance of bona-fide trade or commerce of a foreign principal.

This bill does not in any way impair the right of freedom of speech, or of a free press, or other constitutional rights. On the other hand, this measure does provide that an alien coming to or in the United States for propaganda purposes of a political nature, and American citizens who accept foreign political propaganda employment, shall register; and this was found necessary, in a number of cases, through the revelations of the Committee on Un-American Activities.

We believe that the spotlight of pitiless publicity will serve as a deterrent to the spread of pernicious propaganda. We feel that our people are entitled to know the sources of any such efforts, and the person or persons or agencies carrying on such work in the United States.

Such propaganda is not prohibited under the proposed bill. The purpose of this bill is to make available to the American public, the sources that promote and pay for the spreading of such foreign propa-

ganda. Our National Food and Drug Act requires the proper labeling of various articles, and safeguards the American public in the field of health. This bill seeks only to do the same thing in a different field, that of political propaganda. Propaganda efforts of such a nature are usually conducted in secrecy, which is essential to the success of these activities. The passage of this bill will force propaganda agents representing foreign agencies to come out "on the open" in their activities, or to subject themselves to the penalties provided in said bill.

This bill does not amend or repeal existing law.



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20