

COPY

*An American
activities*

Thye, E. J.

July 20, 1950

Dear Senator Thye:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of July 19th, and the copy of S. 3887, and other material relating to this measure to provide for the establishment of a commission to investigate and evaluate programs designed to assure the loyalty of Government employees and protect Government information from improper disclosure.

I appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending me your views on S. 3887, which you have introduced, and shall study your statements and give careful consideration to the bill.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

LESTER C. HUNT
United States Senator

The Hon. Edward J. Thye
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

SEN. L. C. HUNT
ACC. NO. 270

S. 3887

EDWARD J. THYE
MINNESOTA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 19, 1950

REC'D JUL 20 1950

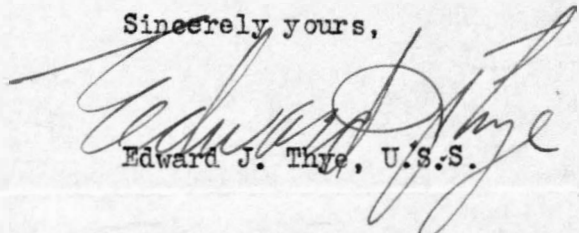
The Hon. Lester C. Hunt
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

On July 10 I introduced a bill, S. 3887, to provide for the establishment of a commission to investigate and evaluate programs designed to assure the loyalty of Government employes and protect Government information from improper disclosure. This bill is pending before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

For your information I enclose herewith a copy of the bill, together with a copy of the statement I made in the Senate when I introduced it and a copy of a letter I have just written to Senator McCarran urging favorable action by the Committee.

Sincerely yours,


Edward J. Thye, U.S.S.

EJT:wj

SEN. L. C. HUNT
ACC. NO. 270

81ST CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3887

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 10 (legislative day, JULY 1), 1950

Mr. THYE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish a commission to investigate and evaluate programs designed to assure the loyalty of Government employees and protect Government information from improper disclosure.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That there is hereby established a commission to be known
4 as the Security Survey Commission (hereinafter called the
5 “Commission”).

6 SEC. 2. The Commission shall make a full and complete
7 study and investigation of the employees' loyalty program
8 in the executive branch, and of similar and related operations
9 of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelli-
10 gence Agency, and other agencies and boards designed to

SEN. L. C. HUNT
ACC. NO. 270

1 assure the loyalty of Government employees and protect Gov-
2 ernment information from improper disclosure. The Com-
3 mission shall evaluate the effectiveness of such program and
4 operations in safeguarding the national interest, and par-
5 ticularly in preventing the infiltration into the Government
6 of subversive elements and disloyal individuals; and shall
7 determine and recommend what steps should be taken to
8 (1) coordinate and increase the effectiveness of such pro-
9 gram and operations; (2) encourage superior personnel to
10 enter and continue in Government service; and (3) safe-
11 guard the integrity and rights of Government personnel. The
12 Commission shall restrict its work to a study of methods,
13 operations, and needs, and shall not investigate the personal
14 loyalty or conduct of any individual within the Government.

15 SEC. 3. (a) The Commission shall be composed of twelve
16 members as follows:

17 (1) Four appointed by the President of the United
18 States, two from the executive branch of the Government
19 and two from private life;

20 (2) Four appointed by the President of the Senate,
21 two from the Senate and two from private life; and

22 (3) Four appointed by the Speaker of the House of
23 Representatives, two from the House of Representatives and
24 two from private life.

1 (b) The members in each class of two specified in
2 subsection (a) shall not be of the same political party.

3 (c) A vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its
4 powers but shall be filled in the same manner that the orig-
5 inal appointment was made.

6 SEC. 4. The Commission shall elect a Chairman and a
7 Vice Chairman from among its members.

8 SEC. 5. Seven members of the Commission shall con-
9 stitute a quorum.

10 SEC. 6. (a) Members of Congress who are members of
11 the Commission shall serve without compensation in addition
12 to that received for their services as Members of Congress;
13 but they shall be reimbursed for traveling, subsistence, and
14 other necessary expenses incurred by them in performance of
15 the duties vested in the Commission.

16 (b) The members of the Commission who are in the
17 executive branch of the Government shall each receive the
18 compensation which he would receive if he were not a
19 member of the Commission, plus such additional compensa-
20 tion, if any (notwithstanding section 6 of the Act of May
21 10, 1916, as amended, 5 U. S. C. 58), as is necessary to
22 make his aggregate salary \$12,500; and they shall be re-
23 imbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses

SEN. L. C. HUNT
ACC. NO. 270

1 incurred by them in performance of the duties vested in the
2 Commission.

3 (c) The members from private life shall each receive
4 \$50 per diem when engaged in the performance of duties
5 vested in the Commission, plus reimbursement for traveling,
6 subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them
7 in performance of such duties.

8 SEC. 7. The Commission shall have power to appoint
9 and fix the compensation of such personnel as it deems
10 advisable, in accordance with the provisions of the civil-
11 service laws and the Classification Act of 1949.

12 SEC. 8. (a) The Commission, or any member thereof,
13 may, for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this
14 Act, hold such hearings and sit and act at such times and
15 places, and take such testimony as the Commission or such
16 member shall deem advisable. Any member of the Com-
17 mission may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses
18 appearing before the Commission or before such member.

19 (b) The Commission is authorized to secure directly
20 from any executive department, bureau, agency, board, com-
21 mission, office, independent establishment, or instrumentality
22 information, suggestions, estimates, and statistics for the

1 purposes of this Act; and each such department, bureau,
2 agency, board, commission, office, establishment, or instru-
3 mentality is authority and directed to furnish such informa-
4 tion, suggestions, estimates, and statistics directly to the
5 Commission, upon request made by the Chairman, or in
6 his absence, by the Vice Chairman.

7 SEC. 9. (a) The Commission shall report its findings
8 and recommendations to the Congress not later than March
9 15, 1951.

10 (b) Thirty days after the submission to the Congress
11 of such report, the Commission shall cease to exist.

12 SEC. 10. There are hereby authorized to be appro-
13 priated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the
14 provisions of this Act.

SEN. L. C. HUNT
ACC. NO. 270

81st CONGRESS
2d Session

S. 3887

A BILL

To establish a commission to investigate and evaluate programs designed to assure the loyalty of Government employees and to protect Government information from improper disclosure.

By Mr. THYE

JULY 10 (legislative day, JULY 1), 1950

Read twice and referred to the Committee on the
Judiciary

APPROVED FOR THE PRESIDENT
BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

STATEMENT BY U. S. SENATOR EDWARD J. THYE, REPUBLICAN OF MINNESOTA
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, July 10, 1950
Concerning S. 3887

Mr. President, I introduce for appropriate reference a bill to establish a Commission to investigate and evaluate programs designed to assure the loyalty of government employes and protect government information from improper disclosure.

The proposed duties of the Commission, which would be composed of an equal number of members of both major parties and an equal number of private citizens and of officials representing the executive and legislative branches of the government, are set forth in Section 2 of the bill as follows:

"The Commission shall make a full and complete study and investigation of the Employees Loyalty Program in the Executive Branch, and of similar and related operations of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency, and other agencies and boards designed to assure the loyalty of Government employees and protect Government information from improper disclosure. The Commission shall evaluate the effectiveness of such program and operations in safeguarding the national interest, and particularly in preventing the infiltration into the Government of subversive elements and disloyal individuals; and shall determine and recommend what steps should be taken to (1) coordinate and increase the effectiveness of such program and operations; (2) encourage superior personnel to enter and continue in Government service; and (3) safeguard the integrity and rights of Government personnel. The Commission shall restrict its work to a study of methods, operations, and needs, and shall not investigate the loyalty or personal conduct of any individual within the Government."

Mr. President, I believe that the American people are entitled to know how the methods and agencies established to provide for security within the Government are functioning and what steps should be taken to make them more effective.

I need not enumerate the convictions that have been secured in courts of law of disloyal persons who have entered Government employment and advanced to responsible positions, nor the evidence of subversive activities that has been brought out in Congressional investigations, to indicate that we are confronted with a most serious problem at a time of grave potential danger.

We have passed through a decade of national emergency when these things have occurred. We know that they happened in spite of the screening and investigation that was done by agencies charged with that responsibility. In 1947, the new Employees Loyalty Program in the Executive Branch was set up, and increased appropriations were provided by the 80th Congress for this program. We believe it has resulted in improved procedures. We hope that it has kept undesirables out of the Government. Unfortunately, however, we are not sure that even our improved set-up is adequate.

SEN. L. C. HUNT
ACC. NO. 270

As the danger from those boring from within has grown more apparent, the American people have become greatly concerned and disturbed over the situation. They have not known quite what to believe. In these critical days, it is relatively easy to arouse public fear. It is our duty to make certain that our program is right. Therefore, let us provide a commission of the best qualified men and women to make a study and report to Congress and the people of this land. Changes, if needed, should be recommended. If there is an adequate safeguard, the public would be happy to have such information.

It is essential that we fairly evaluate the machinery through which we propose to safeguard this vital phase of the national interest. It is imperative that we determine how we can achieve from now on the best possible results in keeping out subversive elements, bad security risks, and disloyal persons, while at the same time safeguarding the integrity and encouraging the overwhelming majority of fine, loyal and competent persons in our government.

I believe that such constructive determination can best be made by an independent, bipartisan Commission modelled somewhat after the Hoover Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch.

That is the purpose of this bill. The proposed Commission would not take over any Congressional investigation. It would not undertake to reach decisions as to policies, past or present, or to assume any administrative responsibility. It would not be created to cast reflections on any individual or any part of our government or to "investigate" them except in the sense of an objective study.

It would be a fact-finding body whose principal duty would be to give us a true picture of a highly important problem and to recommend both administrative and legislative actions to correct whatever mistakes or weaknesses there may be. It would tell us whether we have done what we ought to do to co-ordinate a necessary security and loyalty program, and, if not, what correction or improvements are desirable and necessary.

The establishment of a Security Survey Commission, as contemplated in this bill, would be reassuring to the American people. Its work would be in our common interest and would strengthen us at a most critical time in our history.

In other words, by this means we would try to make certain that at some future time we will not be endeavoring to "lock the barn door after the horse has been stolen."

-*-*-***-

SEN. L. C. HUNT
ACC. NO. 270

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

July 17, 1950

The Hon. Pat McCarran
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator McCarran:

As you know, I have introduced S. 3887, a bill to establish a bipartisan Commission, composed both of officials and private citizens, to investigate and evaluate programs designed to assure the loyalty of Government employes and protect Government information from improper disclosure.

The purposes I have in mind in urging the adoption of this measure were set forth in a statement which I made in the Senate on July 10 when I introduced S. 3887, and I enclose a copy for the information of the Committee.

I believe that the need for a Security Survey Commission as contemplated in this bill has become increasingly urgent, and I respectfully urge immediate favorable consideration of S. 3887 by the Committee on the Judiciary.

We face a most serious situation in world affairs. We must not be distracted from our supreme task in meeting the challenge of Communist aggression by conditions or controversies that tend to disunite us or cause dissension and distrust among us.

Actual court cases have made it apparent that there has been a penetration of subversive influences in our Government in the past by adherents of a philosophy of government that is hostile and foreign to our traditions of freedom. As we now enter a more challenging era already marked by the heroism and sacrifice of American youth on foreign battlefields, the American people are entitled to know whether or not the program to keep subversive elements out of the Government is effective and adequate. They are entitled to the assurance that all reasonable steps will be continuously taken to provide security in the future, and that loyal and competent employes and officials will have the public support and confidence to which they are entitled.

At the same time, the more critical our foreign situation becomes, the more urgent are the reasons for strengthening the loyalty and security measures within the Government, for as these obligations and commitments develop there will be an expansion in personnel in government jobs, there will be movements of our defense forces, there will be a necessary increase of activities involving classified information. We must be absolutely certain that we have set up the proper safeguards.

SEN. L. C. HUNT
AGC. NO. 270

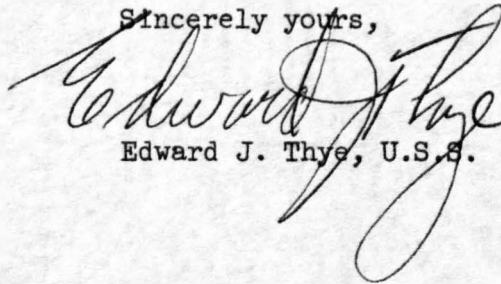
The Hon. Pat McCarran
Page 2

July 17, 1950

We are fully agreed, all of us, on these objectives. A Commission, as proposed in S. 3887, could do much to give the American people a sense of reassurance which will enable us to pull together as we have always done in the presence of a national emergency, and at the same time aid constructively in meeting a need that is obvious and recognized by every thoughtful American citizen. Such assurance that our loyalty and security programs are right would in the future free able and senior members of Congress from long and tedious study of the personnel records of government employes, and enable them to devote their full time and energy to the vital study of legislative problems and world responsibilities.

Mr. Chairman, we are at this moment on the eve of most vital decisions and actions. Let us by means of the common-sense approach provided by S. 3887 in dealing with one phase of our immediate problem help lay the strongest possible foundation for a continued strong government and a united people.

Sincerely yours,



Edward J. Thye, U.S.S.

EJT:w1

SEN. L. C. HUNT
ACC. NO. 270