

Notes and Comment

By Frank J. Torre

We are always interested to learn what some of our governmental organizations are doing, so when we read a recent report by the Collegiate Press Service on the actions of The House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC), it became of special interest especially in light of Peace Parade to Stop the War in Vietnam which will take place Saturday April 15 in New York and San Francisco.

It seems that the HUAC has charged that Communists have dominated the planning of anti-war demonstrations to be held this week, April 8-15.

In a report titled "Communist origin and manipulations of Vietnam week," HUAC claimed that the Spring Mobilization for Peace was "A crash program to un-

dermine and sabotage U.S. resistance to Communist military aggression in Vietnam."

Rev. James Bevel, a former aid to Dr. Martin Luther King and the director of the mobilization, said that the committee members were "liars" and "spreaders of trash."

Committee chairman Edwin E. Willis, Jr. (D.-La.), writing in the foreword to the report, stated that HUAC was not trying "to stifle honest and legitimate dissent." We thought that was nice of him.

Willis said that the mention of an individual's name in the report does not mean that, in the eyes of HUAC, "they are Communists or knowingly aiding and abetting the purposes of the world Communist movement or any of organizations named in this report."

In a related event, Federal Bureau of Investigation director J. Edgar Hoover charged that "morality, integrity, law and order" are "under constant attack from degrading and corrupting influences which, if not halted, will sweep away every vestige of decency and orderliness remaining in our society."

The FBI Director stated, "We should be alarmed when some groups, under the guise of academic freedom and constitutional privilege, flood our college campuses with obscene four-letter-word campaigns and pornographic publications which violate all codes of ethics. We did not realize that Mr. Hoover was such a moralist. Perhaps he should have entered the ministry and not the FBI."

Hoover attacked the controversial play "MacBird", stating that "we should be alarmed when widespread recognition and monetary awards go to a person who writes a 'satirical' piece of trash which maliciously defames the President of our country and insinuates he murdered his predecessor." Mr. Hoover is not only a moralist, he is also is a drama critic.

It seems that if we listen to the HUAC and Mr. Hoover, there would be no need of thinking for one self, all one need do is do what one is told to do, and think, and believe. Apparently it is all right to dissent with the powers that be, as long as one agrees with them.