



Written by [William S. Hahn](#) on May 9, 2023

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Taking Action: House Investigations Are a Positive First Step

The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA) has a controversial reputation, thanks to a tireless smear campaign by the Left. The committee, which operated from 1938 to 1975, was officially authorized “to make from time to time investigations of the extent, character, and objects of un-American propaganda activities in the United States, the diffusion within the United States of subversive and un-American propaganda that is instigated from foreign countries or of a domestic origin and attacks the principle of the form of government as guaranteed by our Constitution, and all other questions in relation thereto that would aid Congress in any necessary remedial legislation.”



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While some remember only the so-called blacklisting of Hollywood actors and actresses as a result of the committee’s work, HCUA more importantly helped to “out” key subversives such as Alger Hiss. Hiss had served in the State Department and was instrumental in founding the United Nations, serving as its first acting secretary-general. In televised hearings, Whittaker Chambers, a former Communist and then senior editor for *Time* magazine, told the committee that Hiss was a Soviet agent and had fabricated 80 percent of his testimony. Hiss was convicted of perjury two years later (the statute of limitations for espionage had run out) and sentenced to five years in prison.

Hiss was a well-connected operative in what we now call the Deep State. JBS founder Robert Welch called Hiss “one of the Conspiracy’s most able, cunning, and audacious agents.”

Texas Democratic Congressman Martin Dies chaired the HCUA for its first seven years, and later wrote in the March 1968 issue of *American Opinion* (a predecessor of *The New American*), “Since the founding of our Republic our Legislative investigating committees have served notice upon America’s enemies that they will not be permitted to thrive in secrecy.”

Welch agreed, writing in the July 1968 JBS *Bulletin*, “The only place where the HCUA has a bad name is not among patriotic and informed Americans, but among the ComSymps [communist sympathizers] and their Liberal dupes who have been trying desperately for years to have it abolished.”

Unfortunately, the federal government today is so rife with bureaucratic steady-staters that it provides lots of cover for America’s enemies to thrive in secrecy.

Since 1958, The John Birch Society, the parent organization to *The New American*, has published voluminous proof that the American Republic is being deliberately subverted. Want to prove it? Use the



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Constitution as a measuring stick. Has the federal government consistently abided by its prescribed limitations over the long term? Have freedom and the free exercise of God-given rights grown exponentially since the Founding? The answer to both is an obvious “no.” Over the last several generations in particular, constitutional limits on federal power have been largely set aside, and individual liberties have shrunk dramatically. This is not haphazard “mission creep.” Rather, it is a deliberate plan designed to produce a socialist world government that will put an end to our national sovereignty, the Constitution, and individual liberty.

It is heartening to see the new House finally conducting investigations into federal corruption and the so-called weaponization of the government. For far too long, Deep Staters and assorted left-wing subversives have treated the federal government as their personal playground, at grievous cost to the body politic. Bringing their evil machinations to light is an important first step.

But a sustained effort, not just a brief spate of public outrage, will be needed to truly turn the tables. The Founders locally organized their fellow Colonists, created and distributed educational materials, and built support for the War for Independence. Our battle today is just as important, but this time, it’s not an armed conflict. Rather, it’s a struggle to restore the constitutional government the Founders gave us, along with the individual liberties it protected, using similar methods of organizing and educating the electorate.

Do more than read about the problems. Be part of the solution by joining The John Birch Society. Start at [JBS.org](#).



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