
AUTHORIZING INVESTIGATION OF ACTIVITIES OF
AGENTS OF FOREIGN NATIONS AFFECTING NEUTRAL-
ITY OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 27 (legislative day, MARCH 4), 1940.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. CLARK of Missouri, from the Committee on Foreign Relations,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. Res. 186]

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, having had under consideration the resolution (S. Res. 186) authorizing an investigation of the activities of agents of foreign nations affecting the neutrality of the United States, hereby report the same favorably to the Senate and recommend that it do pass, with the following amendments:

On page 1, line 5, after the word "for", strike out the words "or on behalf of".

On page 2, line 3, after the word "employ", add the words "and to call upon executive departments for".

The purpose of this resolution is to make available to the people of the United States current information concerning the activities of any person, firm, or corporation acting for any foreign nation engaged in disseminating propaganda which might jeopardize the neutrality of the United States. It is intended to avoid a recurrence of the delay in making public such information pertaining to propaganda activities during the World War, some of which was not made known to the people until 20 years later.

For the information of the Senate there is appended hereto and made a part of this report a communication from the Secretary of State to the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, dated January 22, 1940, commenting upon the proposed adoption of this resolution, which reads as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, January 22, 1940.

The Honorable KEY PITTMAN,
United States Senate.

MY DEAR SENATOR PITTMAN: I refer to your letter of December 23, 1939, transmitting for consideration and recommendation or report Senate Resolution

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186 providing in part "That a special committee of seven Senators, to be appointed by the President of the Senate, is authorized and directed to make a full and complete study and investigation of the activities of any person, firm, or corporation acting for or on behalf of any foreign nation, by way of propaganda or otherwise, having as their ultimate goal or tending to cause, directly or indirectly, a change in the neutral position of the United States in the conflicts now being waged abroad."

You are, of course, familiar with the provisions of the statute of June 8, 1938, requiring the registry with the Secretary of State of agents of foreign principals. A copy of this statute is enclosed for your convenient reference. Under this statute 394 agents have been registered and have filed with the Department statements on the enclosed form setting forth full information in regard to their foreign principals, their contracts with the foreign principals, and the activities of the agents in this country. These statements are, in accordance with the terms of the statute, maintained in a special file in the Department, which is open to examination by the public. A list is enclosed of the agents registered as of December 20, 1939.

The question of enacting Senate Resolution 186 is of course for determination by the Senate. It should be noted, however, that the provisions of the statute of June 8, 1938, have already made available to the Congress and the public much of the information which would probably be forthcoming as a result of the investigation contemplated by Senate Resolution 186.

Sincerely yours,

CORDELL HULL.

