

Andy Newman
AMERICAN VETERANS COMMITTEE (AVC)
206 Barr Building
Washington 6, D. C.
National 1275

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Washington--Chat Paterson, national chairman of the American Veterans Committee (AVC), today urged that the House Committee on Un-American Activities be abolished because of its "abuse of civil rights and attempt to curtail basic American freedoms by the creation of an atmosphere of fear."

"Although we unequivocally reject the tortuous dogmas of the Communist Party as being incompatible with democratic processes, we believe that the conduct of the film investigation by the House Committee has shown such crass disregard of Constitutional rights that the Committee should be abolished," Paterson said.

"We oppose the reckless defamation of individuals and groups by the House Committee," Paterson asserted. "Having concerned itself essentially with harassing and disparaging of progressive American liberals and liberal groups rather than its appointed task of disclosing un-American activities, the Committee has strengthened rather than weakened the Communist Party in America."

"As witnesses have attempted to point out to the Committee, we must not allow our opposition to totalitarianism to lead us to adopt the undemocratic methods and practices of totalitarianism," he said.

"To date the Committee has not recommended one acceptable means of dealing with totalitarian groups," he said. "They did put forward a proposal to outlaw the Communist Party but dropped this idea on the advice of J. Edgar Hoover. Proposals to legalize the Communist Party constitute an arbitrary denial of free speech and political association to an unpopular minority and should be opposed."

"We are spending too much time in publicizing the Communist brand of goods," Paterson said. "It is much more important that we turn our attention to publicizing the dynamic possibilities offered by our democratic system. If we can make democracy work effectively we need have no fear of any totalitarianism."