

Hodge's Group Asks State Ban On Communism

Springfield (Staff)

An act which may make it a crime to be a member of the Communist party in the state of Illinois will be introduced at the coming session of the General Assembly.

The bill is one of several designed to halt subversive activities which are being prepared by the Illinois Seditious Investigation commission, headed by Sen. Paul W. Broyles.

Norval D. Hodges, University of Illinois assistant legal counsel, is secretary of the commission created two years ago, which issued its first report Wednesday.

The commission's proposed legislation includes a bill providing a five to 10 year prison sentence for anyone "who knowingly joins or becomes a member of an organization which has for its common purpose the overthrow of our form of government by violence or force or any other unlawful means and in furtherance thereof, swears allegiance as a qualification of membership to a foreign government."

COMMISSION members said that while the Communist party is not named, this and other proposed bills are aimed at it.

Another measure would give all state governmental units the power to "discipline or dismiss" employes who are active in propagandizing subversive ideologies and who are members of subversive organizations advocating overthrow of the government by force.

This would include employes of the University of Illinois. Broyles said that as a prerequisite of public employment, all public employes, including teachers, would be required to sign affidavits that they are not members of a subversive group.

A third measure would provide a \$500 fine and or a year in prison for persons seeking to incite riot in subversive speeches at public meetings.

Fourth proposed bill would require organizations of 20 or more members who require a secret oath and support public candidates for office to register their membership roster with the secretary of state.

WITHIN 10 DAYS of each meeting, such groups would have to submit to the secretary of the state copies of resolutions and statements of business transacted. All printed matter would have to identify the sponsoring organization, and could be mailed only to members.

Violations would make officers and directors of such groups liable to \$5,000 fines. This proposal is aimed at the Ku Klux Klan and various front organizations as well as the Communist party.

Broyles said the commission also is considering recommending legislation for state censorship of textbooks, but is awaiting the report of an advisory committee of educators studying textbooks used in schools throughout Illinois.