SUPERPATRIOTS AT WORK

Right - Wingers Assail Text Committee, Score ‘Subversives’

By FRYAR CALHOUN

Recent developments in the deliberations of the state textbook committee have pointed out the success of the censorship drive launched by the Texans for America, a group which admits close ties to the DAR and the John Birch Society.

Almost unnoticed by the public, the group, led by Canyon cattleman J. E. Haley, besieged the committee early in October with a large list of complaints about the books being considered for use in Texas high schools. Large as a result of the complaints, the committee has ordered that every history text adopted for use beginning in 1962 must be partly edited and re-written to meet the group’s requirements. Several other books have been rejected or changed, and more alterations may be announced after the committee’s November meeting.

MOST OF THE Haleyites’ criticism is based on the criterion of patriotism, un-Americanism, and “softness” on communism. Many books were condemned for their bibliographies, which suggested that the students read works by such “subversives” as Pearl S. Buck, Jack London, Upton Sinclair, Ernest Hemingway, Stephen Vincent Benet, and Dorothy Canfield Fisher.

Following the group’s advice, the committee had several authors investigated. One who was proved loyal was Dr. Paul F. Boller Jr. of SMU. Among Haley’s reasons for doubting Dr. Boller’s patriotism was the fact that the professor belonged to an organization which believes in integrated schools—one of the planks in the communist platform, according to Haley.

ANOTHER BOOK was marked for rewriting because of “risque” treatment of the 1920’s in America. J. B. Golden, director of the Texas Education Agency’s textbook division, said that “it just wasn’t the kind of thing you would want high school students reading.”

Book company representatives were notified of changes that had to be made 24 hours before the committee’s October 4 ses-

sion. All agreed to the alterations.

Adoption of a single text can mean hundreds of thousands of dollars to the publishers.