AN ACT

To provide for the protection of witnesses appearing before any department, independent establishment, or other agency of the United States, or the Congress of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Criminal Code of the United States be amended by inserting therein a new section immediately following section 135 (U. S. C., title 18, sec. 241) to be known as section 135 (a) (U. S. C., title 18, sec. 241 (a)) and reading as follows:

"Sec. 135. (a) That whoever corruptly, or by threats or force, or by any threatening letter or communication, shall endeavor to influence, intimidate, or impede any witness in any proceeding pending before any department, independent establishment, board, commission, or other agency of the United States, or in connection with any inquiry or investigation being had by either House, or any committee of either House, or any joint committee of the Congress of the United States, or who corruptly or by threats or force, or by any threatening letter or communication shall influence, obstruct, or impede, or endeavor to influence, obstruct, or impede the due and proper administration of the law under which such proceeding is being had before such department, independent establishment, board, commission, or other agency of the United States, or the due and proper exercise of the power of inquiry under which such inquiry or investigation is being had by either House, or any committee of either House or any joint committee of the Congress of the United States shall be fined not more than $1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both."

Approved, January 13, 1940.