

Intellectual Freedom Committee of the American Library Association

Prepared by Paul Bixler, Secretary

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See editorial on page 7

BACKFIRE IN SAN ANTONIO. San Antonio citizens, threatened last May with book burning and with the public demand that "subversive" books in their Public Library be labelled (see New Republic reprint listed below) have organized an American Activities Committee, and recently the state of Texas granted them a charter. In its first bulletin ("A fully informed citizen makes a good citizen") the group announced its firm belief in the right to disagree and in promoting the American sense of humor, and it published a clever series of contrasting quotations under the heading "They Say--We Say." In the second bulletin, just out, the editors connect the San Antonio drive against the Public Library with the organizers of a new Constitution Party, which attacked the reputation of George W. Ebey, Deputy Superintendent of the Houston Public Schools (until fired as a result of the attack), and which supplied literature for a recent attack on the Los Angeles Public Schools. Copies of the committee's bulletin can be obtained by writing to Miss Marie Halpenny, 302 Skyview Drive, East, San Antonio, Texas

One of the published phenomena of the San Antonio effort at book-labelling is the work of Mrs. Myrtle G. Hance of the Minute Women of America, and copies may pop up elsewhere. Entitled "REaD READING (get it?) A Report on Our San Antonio Public Libraries Communist Front Authors and Their Books Therein," it lists the names of 118 authors with Communist front affiliations and the titles of well over 500 books by them. The titles were taken from the Public Library but the names were first copied and tabulated by Mrs. Hance and six lady assistants from publications of the House Un-American Activities Committees.

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WHITTIER CONFERENCE. The Second Conference on Intellectual Freedom ("Book Selection in Defense of Liberty"), sponsored not only by the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee but also by the Book Acquisitions Committee and the Board on the Acquisition of Library Materials, took place, as many of you know, on the campus of Whittier College June 20-21, just before the ALA annual conference in Los Angeles. About 400 attended the two-day sessions, an increase of about 100 over last year's conference. Lester Asheim's address "Not Censorship But Selection" has already appeared in the September Wilson Bulletin (along with President Eisenhower's letter of June 25 on intellectual freedom to ALA President Robert Downs, and "The Freedom to Read") and a summary of the address's conclusions will

appear in the November ALA Bulletin. Douglas Black's talk on the publisher's responsibility for freedom of selection will appear in the winter Antioch Review. Virgil Rogers' remarks on the school administrator's problem will appear in the Library Journal; and a statement from the school librarians' discussion group at Whittier will be published in the November ALA Bulletin.

Fredric Mosher is editing the entire proceedings of the Whittier Conference (much of it had to be recorded on tape) for book publication. The proceedings of the New York Conference of a year ago are now ready for publication, though no exact date has been set.

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CONFUSION AT MT. LEBANON, PA. On September 15, Dr. Kathryn Mitchell, Pittsburgh housewife-economist (she has a Ph.D.), attacked the policies of the Mt. Lebanon (Pittsburgh suburb) Public Library in a crowded public hearing before the library board. For the most part Mrs. Mitchell discussed at length a documented list of pro-Communist writers, their backgrounds and their books (the last on the library's shelves); she indicated the books didn't represent the 90 per cent Republican views of the community, claimed that seven books (by Elizabeth Bentley, Paul Harvey, John T. Flynn, Major George R. Jordan, Senator McCarthy, and Clarence Randell) which she wished to give the library had been accorded a "hesitation" treatment. Her recorded testimony takes up eight single-space dittoed pages of a 23-page transcript covering three hours of time. Much of the hearing was conducted in an uproar. We've read the total transcript plus a news report and find it next to impossible in short space to describe the tumult and shouting let alone give the sense of the meeting. But a few sidelights may be in order:

The story was fully and, so far as can be judged at a distance, fairly, reported in eight columns (about a full page) in the Pittsburgh Press. Temporary chairman of the meeting, a banker, read a brief documented account of Mrs. Mitchell's previous visits to the library, and Mrs. Mitchell later accused the library board of smearing her. The Press reporter recorded that up to this point the crowd, though divided in sympathies, had cheered Mrs. Mitchell. But when she asked for an individual poll of the library board "to determine whether they are following a lot of left-wing educators and librarians," the cheers turned to boos.

The meeting chairman presented as the concepts guiding the Book Selection Committee of the Mt. Lebanon library the seven basic propositions of the Westchester "Freedom to Read" statement, and he entered into the record not only those propositions "backed by President Eisenhower" but the President's letter to ALA President Robert Downs at Los Angeles. Both were also published in the Press.

The issue of Communism was not decided at the hearing. But a special committee of five was appointed to investigate charges against the library. The five include an advertising and public relations director of a large corporation, a banker and former president of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, a president of an industrial concern, a corporation vice president, and the president of the local Parent-Teacher Association.

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PRESIDENT DOWNS REPORTS FOR COLUMNIST ALLEN. Past ALA President Robert B. Downs on September 14 took over Robert S. Allen's syndicated news column for the day while Mr. Allen was on vacation. With a professional touch that would have done credit to any columnist Downs set forth the facts about book burning and the Information Libraries. Quote: "The most certain way to breathe life into a book and insure its longevity is to prohibit its being read."

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SCHOOL LIBRARIAN ON THE FIRING LINE. Mrs. Grace Dunkley, librarian of Roosevelt High School, Compton, who was a keynoter of the school librarians' section at the Whittier Conference, is the new chairman of the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the California Library Association. Both school librarians and state associations stand in need of further collaboration of this sort.

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FIREMAN'S KIT. Watch for the November issue of the ALA Bulletin. Editor Richardson with some side assistance from the Intellectual Freedom Committee, has gathered together a group of articles, documents, and other materials on intellectual freedom which should assist almost any librarian with a censorship problem on his hands; hence the term "fireman's kit." It should be stimulating reading. We'll have reprints later on.

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LITERATURE AVAILABLE. We have varying quantities of certain documents, statements, and reprints on aspects of intellectual freedom. We list them below, and on request we will be glad to mail out single copies where the supply is limited, and in reasonable quantity where we have a good-sized stock.

1. The Freedom to Read: a statement prepared by the Westchester Conference of the ALA and the American Book Publishers Council, May 2 and 3, 1953. Printed: 8 pages. Includes an excerpt from President Eisenhower's speech at Dartmouth College, June 14, beginning "Don't join the book burners..." Several hundred copies available.

The statement has been endorsed by the ALA, American Book Publishers Council, Directors of the American Booksellers Association, National Commission for the Defense of Democracy through Education of the NEA, the Antiquarian Booksellers Association, and the principle of the statement of the American Bar Association. It has been reprinted by the Saturday Review, New York Times, and other publications, and has received far more favorable editorial treatment in the nation's newspapers than unfavorable. (Note above that it was used at the Mt. Lebanon, Pa, hearing.)

2. A special New Republic Report on Book Burning. Printed: 14 pages. Includes the "Freedom to Read" statement noted above besides articles about the situation in San Antonio, St. Cloud and Boston plus the Senate transcript of an exchange between Senator McCarthy and U. S. High-Commissioner-for-Germany James Conant and a review of the Overseas Libraries Program. 400 copies available.

3. Opinion of the Oklahoma Supreme Court decision on the Bartlesville library case. Mimeographed: 5 pages. Deals with the legal relation of the library board to state and local government. This might well be a "must" for library classes studying the governmental relationships of public libraries. Several hundred copies available.

4. The Public School and the American Heritage, and a Policy to Preserve Free Public Education, by David K. Berninghausen. Mimeographed reprint from the Harvard Educational Review, Summer, 1951: 17 pages. States the positive principles of intellectual freedom but is also a thorough-going examination of freedom's enemies. 250 copies.

5. Lobbying and its Influence on the Public Schools. By Frank Buchanan, late chairman of the House Select Committee on Lobbying Activities. Printed: 5 pages. Congressman Buchanan answered 13 questions put to him on this important subject. 1,000 copies.

6. Reprint from the Massachusetts Library Bulletin. Printed: 6 pages. This review of intellectual freedom (January, 1952) may be chiefly valuable today to those outside Massachusetts for its Self-Rating Sheet ("Check Your Library on Pressure, Propaganda and Policy") which was formerly available on a single mimeographed sheet. 300 copies.

7. Report from Boston. By Laurence J. Kipp. Reprint of an article in the Library Journal, Nov. 1, 1952. Story of the attack on the Boston Public Library last year, including the significant statement from Herbert Philbrick of I Led Three Lives on the importance of learning the facts about Communism from the library. Printed: 4 pages. 200 copies.

8. Directive from Palmer Hoyt of the Denver Post to his staff on how to handle McCarthyism. Mimeographed: 2 pages. 100 copies.

9. Do Silent Witnesses Defend Civil Liberties? By Alan F. Westin, graduate of the Harvard Law School and staunch defender of civil liberty. Considers the fifth amendment. Printed: 10 pages. This reprint from the June, 1953 Commentary was to be distributed at the Whittier Conference, but after being flown from New York to Los Angeles, no conveyance could be found to bring the bundle from Los Angeles to Whittier on Saturday afternoon, and we have 500 copies.

10. Propaganda and Pressure; Suggested Reading for Librarians. 6-page printed folder, by now well known. Several hundred copies.

11. Material on Consumers Union and Consumer Reports. Dittoed: six pages. 40 copies. This publication is not new, has been offered before.

12. Let Freedom Ring: a Reading List for Our Time. Compiled by the staff of the University of Illinois Library, Chicago Undergraduate Division. Mimeographed: 10 pages. 75 copies.

13. What to Do About "Dangerous" Textbooks. By Edward N. Saveth with comment by Hubert C. Armstrong, Director of the Public Education Association. Printed: 10 pages. 20 copies.

14. The United Nations: Facts and Fallacies. Printed: 6-page folder. Published by the Church Peace Union. 200 copies.

15. The American Way of Publishing. Published by the American Textbook Publishers Institute. Printed: 8 pages. 40 copies.

16. Letter from Thomas Jefferson to M. Dufief, dated April 19, 1814, concerning religious censorship of a book of science--with comment pertinent for today. Mimeographed: 2 pages. Several hundred copies.

And of course, we have and will continue to have plenty of copies of the Library Bill of Rights and the statement on Labelling.

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OVERSEAS LIBRARIES--TO WHOM DO THEY BELONG? On June 25 the ALA Council in Los Angeles unanimously adopted a two-page resolution on the Overseas Library Program of the United States. A memorable part of the resolution read as follows: "The American Overseas libraries do not belong to a Congressional Committee or to the State Department. They belong to the whole American people, who are entitled to have them express their finest ideals of responsible freedom."

We cannot list here the many references to Senator Joseph McCarthy's investigations, to the several State Department directives about the program and to the reactions and the national and international repercussions from it. But we do remind you of the following:

1) Full-page report of the books in Overseas Libraries in the New York Times, June 22.

2) "Text of Policy Statement on Government Book and Library Program" issued by Robert L. Johnson, administrator of the International Information Administration of the State Department, New York Times, July 9. This policy is presumably now in effect.

3) Statements and news reports in the Publishers' Weekly for the successive weeks of July 11, 18, 25--a brief running summary of events at that time.

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APPOINTMENT IN LOS ANGELES. Appointed to the Los Angeles City Library Commission by the mayor and confirmed by a 10 to 2 vote of the city council August 31 was Mrs. Justus Kirby, former president of Pro-America, which, says the Hearst Herald-Examiner, "forced the Los Angeles Board of Education to screen its school library material against literature advocating UNESCO 'one-worldism'--a key plan in the Communist platform urging a single world government." (This is the same Board of Education which earlier in the summer refused \$300,000 from the Ford Foundation for a five-year-teacher-training experiment to be conducted under the board's own supervision.) Concerning Mrs. Kirby's appointment to the Library Commission, the Herald-Examiner, in a news story, said that the "citizens of Los Angeles interested in the safeguarding of their library system from the infiltration of Communists and other subversive literature (sic) felt a sense of deep relief." An effort to get Mrs. Kirby to state her opinion on freedom and diversity of book selection, and on labelling was unsuccessful.

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OBSCENITY IN YOUNGSTOWN. Federal District Judge Charles McNamee enjoined Youngstown Police Chief Edward Allen August 5 from further banning allegedly obscene books from the city's newsstands on his own authority. From the decision we quote the following: "Freedom of the press is not limited to freedom to publish but includes the liberty to circulate publications, which the Supreme Court has said 'is as essential to freedom as the liberty to publish'... Freedom of the press, together with freedom of speech and freedom of religion, occupy a 'preferred position' among our constitutional guaranties. That preferred position gives these guaranties 'a sanctity and a sanction not permitting dubious intrusions.' Freedom of the press is also guaranteed by the Constitution of the State of Ohio. Censorship in any form is an assault upon freedom of the press. A censorship that suppresses books in circulation is an infringement of that freedom" Background of this case is given in the August 15 Publishers' Weekly, pp. 621-22.

August 31 Bernard Bloch, president of the Mahoning Valley Distributing Company and a key figure in the litigation against Police Chief Allen, was arrested and charged with "distributing for sale a book of obscene and immoral nature," under a Youngstown ordinance on the distribution of obscene publications. Bloch pleaded not guilty. He will be supported in his defense by the New American Library.

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POOR REPORTING IN MONTGOMERY, ALA. We have the news clipping of a letter to the editor of the Montgomery Advertiser by Librarian Nellie Glass, pointing out in detail the inaccuracies of a news story on the book selection policies of the Montgomery Public Library. Most newspaper editorial pages are open to this kind of correction. Librarians may well use them were a policy so vital for the continued well-being of their institution is concerned.

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FREEDOM TO READ. The Special Committee on Individual Rights as Affected by National Security of the American Bar Association reported to the House of Delegates in August a two-page statement strongly urging the Bar to discourage efforts to restrict the freedom to read. Typical sentences: On U. S. Information Libraries-- "...in the interest of maintaining a national reputation for cool-headedness, some judgment must be used in determining what books should be included or excluded and ordinarily their actual contents would seem to be the best criterion."

On libraries at home--"Any fear that our people have become so soft-headed that they must now be protected against an opportunity to examine the books of authors whose personal views or conduct are obnoxious is unfounded"

National security: "We cannot burn books at home and object effectively to tyranny over the human mind by our enemy abroad."

Importance of books: "A learned profession like ours is peculiarly aware that books contain the core of the great traditions of our history and civilization. No one should be allowed to tamper with them without sharp reaction from the Bar."

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A ROSE BY SOME OTHER NAME? One public library recently had to dispose of several hundred books damaged by water and so smelly that they couldn't even be stored in the library building. So pervasive is the bad connotation of book burning these days, that the library trustees, rather than let the volumes go to the incinerator, voted to bury them.

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COMMENT FROM THE RIGHT. The weekly Human Events for September 2 published a piece by Victor Lasky "'Book Burning' on the Left," which acidly recalls the days of the '30's and '40's. Earlier (June 17) this paper allowed that "no one can disagree with President Eisenhower's denunciation of 'book burning' at Dartmouth College," but said of our Overseas Libraries, "It would have been more to the point if the President had advocated the closing down of the libraries, so that the waste of American taxpayers' money would have stopped."

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EDITORIAL. The third proposition of "The Freedom to Read" statement runs as follows:

"It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to determine the acceptability of a book solely on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author."

"A book should be judged as a book. No art or literature can flourish if it is to be measured by the political views or private lives of its creators. No society of free men can flourish which draws up lists of writers to whom it will not listen, whatever they may have to say."

So far as the political aspects of censorship are concerned, these are the most important sentences in the entire statement. Is a book to be judged by its author's affiliations or by its content? This was the original question, and the answer--that content is of overriding importance--seems a significant and correct decision. We herewith support it (having originally, in fact, signed the whole statement!) but rise to consider one important application.

When the question was first raised in discussion, the examples given of works to be considered happened to be those of Dashiell Hammett and of Howard Fast. We thought then and we think now that though these authors have been bracketed together for political purposes, their works cannot be ticked off as parallel examples without endangering the clarity of the issue.

At least part of our contention was illustrated in July when policies for the federal government Information Libraries shook down at long last into a fair and reasonable statement. At that time Hammett's works were specifically retained as top examples of the detective story, a type of writing deemed characteristic of our current literature. The question was quite simple. It was not of Hammett's associations or his ideology, or even whether Hammett's novels were Communist (a slightly ridiculous question). It was whether good detective stories were a proper kind of book to include in the Overseas Libraries.

On the other hand, five books by Howard Fast were removed from our Overseas Information Libraries because they were said to "support the Communist line."

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Hammett's and Fast's works required markedly different treatment in our Overseas Libraries, but we would warn that the difference of interpretation between the two cannot be transferred bodily from our libraries abroad and applied to our domestic libraries. The purposes of our libraries abroad, as everyone should know by now, are somewhat different from those of the public or the school library in America.

What, then, of Howard Fast's works? A number of adult critics and intellectuals have called them cheap and hardly worth the reading. On the other hand, they are filled with a brashness which, for many youthful readers, holds a considerable appeal.

The majority of Fast's books are historical novels. Thus it would be helpful if competent historians were to report upon their historical accuracy and interpretation. Beyond that, however, it seems clear that the value of individual volumes by Fast vary and that their usefulness varies according to the particular library considering any one of them.

At Whittier, a number of school librarians informally agreed that Fast's Haym Solomon was a sound inclusion for the school library. Would everyone else agree on this judgment? Would those who agree on Haym Solomon for school libraries agree also on The American for the same purpose? It seems to us there is only one general answer for such questions. The choice of such books rests not on Howard Fast's political beliefs or upon his unwillingness to testify before Congressional committees, but upon Point 3 of "The Freedom to Read" (content of the individual book) plus a judgment as to the readers who are to use the books in the library. And this judgment of content plus suitability for the particular library should be in the hands of the librarian (or at least in those of the person most intimately concerned with the use of the books).

III

One other note on the overriding significance of contents in book selection (or rejection). Three times now within our experience, when the contents of Howard Fast's books have been broached in meetings as fit subject for examination, the immediate reaction from some of those present has been one of rejection of the whole idea. These librarians, incidentally, are not timid souls but some of the best known in the profession. Their reaction was emotional and immediate, and it seemed to cool off further discussion. We merge their similar remarks as follows:

"You mean we have to read all these books!"--delivered in a shocked, incredulous tone.

To be frank about it, that's just what we mean--or better, what we think is meant by Point 3; and that can be said whether the book is by Howard Fast or by someone else. The theoretical emphasis upon content will mean little in the long run unless librarians are willing to take time and responsibility to make a well considered decision on selection. It is right there, we think, that librarianship can rise into a profession or sink into something much less.

HOT STORY. If you like science fiction, don't miss the latest Ballentine Book by Ray Bradbury, Fahrenheit 451. It's about book burners, appeared originally (1950) in Galaxy Science Fiction under the title "The Fireman."

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SECOND FOUNDATION INVESTIGATION. The House has authorized a second investigation of foundations to correct the "omissions and faults" of the Cox Committee investigation of last year. Representative Carroll Reece, who is to head the new investigating committee, in introducing his resolution, called the Fund for the Republic "this king-sized Civil Rights Congress endowed by the Ford Foundation" (p. 10189, July 27 Congressional Record). Mr. Reece identified the Civil Rights Congress as Communist and subversive as listed by the Attorney General.

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AFTERMATH OF THE GATHINGS COMMITTEE. A number of bills recommended or suggested at the hearings of the Gathings Committee on Current Pornographic Materials of last December are now in that twilight between introduction into Congress and consideration for passage. One bill calls for impounding the mail addressed to any person or firm against which proceedings have been instituted in connection with obtaining money through the mail in exchange for obscene or indecent materials, pending final decision of the issues involved in the proceedings. Another would prohibit private vehicles (common carriers are already prohibited) from transporting obscene material in interstate commerce. A third and fourth would enlarge upon the present definition and inclusion of material considered obscene. Much more about the details and the state of these bills are given in Legislative Memorandum VII, Bulletin of the American Book Publishers Council.

A bill to halt "tie-in" sales of lewd publications with reputable ones has become law in New Jersey. Dealers have contended (see Gathings hearings) that they have been forced by some wholesalers to take all books of one dealer regardless of type or tendency. Under this law wholesalers who so require retailers to accept "lewd and lascivious publications or other materials" are classified as disorderly persons.

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PROBLEM IN CENSORSHIP? Appearing in the summer issue of The California Quarterly is the script of Salt of the Earth, screenplay about New Mexican miners of Local 890 of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers. Typical sequence: hero and leader of the union is repeatedly punched in the belly by a sheriff's deputy in a beautiful Cadillac while at the same time his baby is born to the heroine, his common law wife, marching on the picket line. The more Americans who become familiar with this type of propaganda the better. But there would be a problem if the film misrepresentation itself were exported or smuggled behind the Iron Curtain to be shown there in a condition of isolated monopoly as a prime example of American exploitation and racial discrimination.

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LATTIMORE CASE. Last May United States District Judge Luther Youngdahl threw out the four most important charges of perjury in a total of seven against Owen Lattimore in a case involving his denials of Communist

sympathy before the McCarran Committee; in the judge's opinion the charges violated the First and Sixth Amendments. Recently the federal government moved to reinstate these charges. The government has published many volumes of testimony before the McCarran Committee concerning Lattimore and the Institute for Pacific Relations. Lattimore has published his own Ordeal by Slander. But let no one make up his mind on this confused case without reading the extended piece "Lattimore and the IPR" by Richard L. Walker, authority on Chinese History at Yale University, Special section of the March 31, 1952 issue of The New Leader.

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THE FRONT. The newsletter Counterattack has recently modified some of its more extreme attitudes. Not so the bi-weekly The Firing Line published by the National Americanism Commission of the American Legion. In its August 15 issue, for example, The Firing Line attacks both the Associated Press and the United Press, hardly known for Communist or pro-Communist activities, and the Scripps-Howard press, whose anti-Communism is of long standing. In view of these attacks, it is interesting for a librarian to read some of the words of Vice President Nixon spoken before the annual national convention of the American Legion, August 31. We quote two paragraphs:

"In the first place, no one in authority, and I want to make this absolutely clear, no one in authority in the administration or in the Congress of the United States or in the Senate of the United States, has ever suggested that the domestic libraries of the United States in this country should have communistic books removed from them. Why? Because as far as those books are concerned, American people, I think, we will all agree, should know more rather than less about communism, and the only way you can learn more about it rather than less is to read the books the communists write, and those that the fellow travelers write as well.

"So what we have to recognize is this, that the advocacy of unpopular ideas is part of our American tradition; but there is another side to this question and that is this, while those ideas can well be advocated and should be under our system, if there are those who believe in them, we must distinguish participation in the communist conspiracy itself from advocacy of the communist ideal, and also we should bear in mind this, that if one idea is advocated, we have the right, and I think also that it's a duty, to advocate our American idea in contra-vention to it, to expose the other idea for what it is. But the proper answer in this field is not suppression. It is exposure and if the two great ideas which appeal to the world today, communism on the one side and our system of freedom, justice on the other side, come together in the open marketplace of ideas, there can't be any question about the outcome."

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OCCASIONAL PAPER. The University of Illinois Library School has published as its Occasional Paper, no. 35, a summary of the work of the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee by a graduate student John J. Boll.

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SILENT WITNESSES. According to Fletcher Knebel ("What Are They Hiding?" Look, October 6), 175 former employees of the federal government

or members of the armed forces have refused over the past five years on pleas of the Fifth Amendment to answer congressional committees asking them about Communist affiliations.

According to Knebel, Senator McCarthy discovered only 8 of the 175. Three others appeared before McCarthy after appearing first before another committee.

Of the 175, one was a former member of Congress, one a former member of the F.B.I., two were librarians.

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CENSORSHIP IN BROOKSVILLE, FLA. In Brooksville, a town near Tampa, a high school history class doing research work on the organization of the Soviet government discovered a "bushel basket" of pamphlets and a number of old "Un-American" books in the Public Library last July. Equal appropriations from the county, school board, and city government support the library. The books turned out to be gifts from Col. Raymond Robins, a one-time miner, advocate of prohibition and the outlawry of war, and a visitor (in 1933) to the Soviet Union for President Roosevelt.

On comparison with a list of books on Communism from the American Legion, however, the volumes were removed from the library shelves, according to the Tampa Morning Tribune, and will be examined by the library board before they are put back. The school board attorney was quoted in the story to the effect that the books should be thrown out. A member of the library board, a retired Army colonel was reported as calling the affair an internal matter, about which "we don't want any widespread notice." The school principal was reported as saying that the books he saw were "completely biased." Others were quoted in praise of the board's action. Neither the materials nor a list of them could be examined, according to the Tribune, but the local American Legion Commander was quoted to the effect that the list had been sent to the national and perhaps the state legion headquarters.

A news story also quoted a hired companion of Col. Robins as saying he was too ill to be interviewed and the withdrawal of the books was a "smear campaign" against herself and Robins.

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CENSORSHIP AT THE PORTS. An editorial in the New York Times for September 25 calls attention to the fact that for many months "scholars, educational institutions, libraries and individuals with completely legitimate interest in books, magazines and other printed matter originating behind the Iron Curtain have found that delivery of such publications was slow, erratic or nonexistent." The Times lays the blame for this condition to "an excessively broad interpretation of the law" by the Post Office Department and the Customs Bureau.

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COMMUNIST PARTY BRANDED AS SUBVERSIVE. Under the Feinberg Law, declared constitutional by the U. S. Supreme Court, the Board of Regents of the State of New York has officially listed the Communist Party as a subversive organization. The Regents' opinion, including an explanation of legal processes and public hearings, fills two-thirds of a page in the September 25 New York Times.

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NOTHING TO IT. An editorial in The American School Board Journal for September (Edward A. Fitzpatrick, Guest Editor) assures school board members that all the recent resolutions on book burning and intellectual freedom have "nothing to do with our libraries, our schools, or other educational instrumentalities in the United States," and concludes that "there is no book burning in the United States, nor is there any real danger to intellectual freedom," A companion editorial in the same issue says that the use of the word "right" in Columbia University's Bicentennial slogan, "Man's Right to Knowledge and the Free Use Thereof" is mistaken.

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VESTED INTEREST IN CENSORSHIP. In June the Ohio Senate voted 23 to 2 to exempt newsreels from the state's 40-year old motion picture censorship. The newsreel at last comes under the First Amendment.

A bill to kill motion picture censorship entirely was withdrawn because it had no chance of passage. Ohio censorship costs the motion picture industry \$300,000 a year. The money is used by the state to finance the public school visual education program. Removing censorship from newsreels will lose the state visual education program \$45,000 next year.

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RESOLUTION. Although the Association of Catholic Trade Unions decided after lengthy debate not mention Senator McCarthy by name, delegates meeting in convention in July adopted a resolution condemning as "un-American and un-Christian the tactics of guilt by accusation and association."

Paul Bixler

(from Antioch College,
Yellow Springs, Ohio)