

Vol. II, No. 3

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\$1 per year

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In Again, Out Again, Galion. Last February the majority of three of a five-member school board in Galion, Ohio, presented a resolution for removing all books of fiction from the senior and junior high school libraries for "screening." The father of a 15-year old high school girl had objected to her reading the school library's copy of Richard Wright's Native Son; also objected to were Hervey Allen's Anthony Adverse and Toward Morning. One of the two minority members of the board, lawyer Robert Ricksecker, asked time to study the resolution, and its consideration was put off one month.

At the march meeting the resolution was introduced again. In support of it several local ministers were quoted as condemning the moral tone of the three books which had touched off the original motion. Ricksecker, who had contacted a number of library and education authorities in the preceding month, read a fifteen-minute statement in opposition; in it he pleaded for tolerance and common sense, and he suggested that the real trouble was lack of a qualified librarian to select books and run the high school library in a sound manner. When he attempted to introduce letters and statements from others concerning the proposed censorship, he was cut off. By a 3 to 2 margin, the board then voted to remove all fiction from high school library shelves until next September, by which time it was presumed the collection of 2050 titles could be screened.

The next day the Galion Inquirer published an editorial attacking the proposal, and Ricksecker ran an advertisement explaining his vote and presenting names of individuals and organizations he had received comments from. The day after that the Inquirer published the full text of Ricksecker's statement before the board. Elizabeth Allwardt, librarian of the Galion Public Library, who had been asked by school board members to censor the high school books, turned down the request after a conference with her trustees.

Comments poured in both from within and without the city. By arrangement all calls were routed to the chairman of the school board, a workman in a Galion factory. Calls came in such a flood one morning that the factory switchboard had to be shut down.

One week after the resolution's passage, the board met in special session by popular demand and unanimously rescinded the order, restoring the books to library shelves. The school superintendent was left on the spot by the closing words of the board's final motion that "in the future all responsibility for the moral, spiritual and political character of books, magazines and all other types or forms of reading or educational material now in use, or purchased for future use in schools under our jurisdiction shall rest with the superintendent and his subordinates. And he is hereby ordered to preserve intact all requisitions for books until further notice." The three books which were the source of the controversy were removed "in the best interests of the school system."

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CHAOS IN ALABAMA. If number of people and books are considered, the book branding required by Alabama law is the most disruptive and outrageous since a certain Congressman suggested the labelling of all books in the Library of Congress. (That one didn't get off the ground; the Alabama plan became law last January 1.)

The Alabama act requires that all school textbooks and other books used for required reading in schools carry a statement by the author or publisher indicating (1) whether or not the author is or is not or ever was a member of the Communist Party, (2) a "known advocate of Communism or Marxist Socialism," a member of any Communist-front organization listed by the Attorney General of the United States or Congress or any committee of Congress. The statement must also give the same information about the author of any book cited in such books.

That the publishers have had "serious difficulty" complying with the law is one of the understatements of the year. For example, there are no available lists of members of most (if not all) organizations that have been declared subversive by the Federal Government.

School superintendents, librarians and teachers have envisioned even more trouble for themselves if the act is to be carried out. They will comb their book collections, pull out the "questionable" books, and have to affix the labels. An article in the Alabama Law Review suggests that all library books are meant to be included, and that textbooks or other volumes now gathering dust in storage could not be brought back into the light again without the new treatment. An estimate for one library was that labels would have to be pasted in 300 books a day if their job were to be finished by the end of this year.

Newspapers in the state have been sulphurous in their comment on the act, but this seems a little belated (as do the comments of others). Magazines and newspapers were deliberately and specifically excluded from the act. When an attorney who had something to do with the passage of the bill was asked the why of that exclusion, he said frankly that if not excluded, newspapers would have stirred up so much opposition that the legislature would never have passed the bill.

In April a test suit was filed, and upon an agreement between the State Board of Education, the Attorney General and the State Textbook Committee, W. J. Terry, state superintendent of education asked school men to cease further complying with the book labelling act until the Alabama state courts had rendered their decision. Alabama teachers and

librarians can now go back to doing the jobs they are trained and paid for--at least until the courts decide that the law is constitutional.

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JUVENILE DELINQUENCY. On March 29 Senator Hendrickson introduced into the Senate a bill to amend the law relating to indecent publications in the District of Columbia. In his introduction the Senator attacked the volume of indecent films, photographs, and "cartoon books" flooding the country and excoriated their effect on society, particularly children. The bill would 1) make mandatory a jail sentence of not less than 1 year for anyone found guilty a second time of dealing with lewd, immoral, licentious materials; 2) authorize the court to permit the public prosecutor to confiscate and have sold at public auction all cameras, presses, trucks, automobiles and the like which a convicted person may have employed to carry on his traffic in lewd material.

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THE DUTIES OF SOVIET LIBRARIANS. In the May Progressive ("Soviet Censorship in Action") Edward Crankshaw quotes from an article in the Soviet library periodical Bibliotekar: "The Soviet theory of library science has, in cataloging, always followed the principle of partisanship... This general ideological development of the Soviet theory of cataloging has encountered resistance by a few who are still dominated by reactionary theories on libraries and catalogues. These 'theorists' who blindly accept the bourgeois theory consider the catalogue as an informative and technical instrument... It is the duty of the librarian to include in the catalogue only such publications as contribute to a higher ideological-theoretical level of the workers, serve scholarly research and the vocational interests of the majority of the readers, and help them in their study and self-education."

What are "special" scholars to do, and how are librarians to learn selection in the Soviet Union? For them, "In addition to the main catalogue for the general reader, there must also be an informative catalogue limited to official use in answering readers' questions." There are other remarks on Soviet cataloging in this article, and an interesting word from the Soviet State Scientific Publishing House on how to keep the Great Soviet Encyclopedia up to date with the latest purge.

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FORUMS AND DEBATES. An article on Facts Forum, about which we have had inquiries, appeared in the February 16 Reporter...

Freedom House had made available a documentary film from the TV record on the Murrow-McCarthy debate. It is noncommercial and is "not available to any organization listed by the U. S. Attorney General as subversive." Prints may be purchased or rented from Association Films, Inc....

April, 1954 American Film Forum (516 Fifth Ave., N. Y. 36) is on the topic, "Is Fighting Communism Periling Civil Rights?" Moderator, Marquis Childs. The AFF makes a new film on a controversial topic available once a month, but subscription to this service is by the year.

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CONFUSION IN CALIFORNIA. We don't have the space to do justice to



the situation in California in this issue, and we can only note two or three incidents as examples.

Two textbooks adopted for high school use in Los Angeles, The Making of Today's World by R. O. Hughes and American History by Erling M. Hunt, were attacked because their covers bore symbols of one world, and the first was also criticized adversely because its bibliography listed President Eisenhower's Crusade in Europe and Wendell Willkie's One World. A member of the city's board of education defended the selection of these books, but he then made a proposal that Los Angeles secede from the state's textbook system, from which it receives \$500,000 worth of elementary textbooks annually, and provide its own collection of materials. His reason? He believed the state's materials too "progressive."

A favorite and repeated target in Los Angeles, of course is anything having to do with UNESCO, which is equated with world government, which in turn is equated with communism. In at least one nearby city the Assistant Superintendent of Schools told junior high school librarians, singly and in private, to avoid all purchase of books for their libraries which had "one world" or UNESCO in their titles. And in a small conference on "better teaching" at a university in Southern California it is reliably reported that every high school teacher present contended that she was not free to teach, and when the group proposed to discuss controversial issues, a county supervisor shut off discussion.

A number of cases are being brought to court in California to test the constitutionality and workability of the Dilworth Law. But perhaps the most interesting recent suits in the state are two for slander. In one a teacher won a substantial settlement for having falsely been called a Communist. In the other, Chet Huntley, radio and TV commentator, won \$10,000 and a handsome apology from a wealthy clubwoman who had called him "a Communist" and other names. At least temporarily these actions are said to have settled a certain amount of dust in California.

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SUMMARY. Collier's Year Book, recently published, carries a 5,000-word article on "Libraries and Intellectual Freedom" summarizing some of the events of the last three years but concentrating particularly on 1953.

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SELECTING BOOKS IN SALINAS. A member of the library board of the Salinas (Cal.) Public Library objected to purchase of H. G. Wells Outline of History, Bertrand Russell's Human Knowledge, and the most recent Kinsey book, and then left the city on an extended trip. But so marked was the community's reaction to his effort at pre-censorship that John C. Tully, the board member, later felt it necessary to defend his position in a letter that filled nearly all of one page of the Salinas Californian, local newspaper. Complicating the outcome was the fact that Mr. Tully is a publisher, that he discounted a part of the Freedom to Read statement and that on his trip he visited a large public library in the Middle West and used some of his reported experiences to support his contentions.

A quick survey disclosed that other libraries in the area delegated book selection authority to the librarian. Copies of all three books were finally purchased, and it was decided that the Salinas Public Library should have a "workable, written policy" for the selection of books.

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HOUSE UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CORRECTS THE RECORD. Some of our earlier Newsletters related difficulties some libraries were having over Consumer Reports, published by Consumers Union, because the magazine was listed in the House Un-American Activities Committee publication Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications. To correct the false impression about Consumer Reports we published a dossier on the case which we distributed where requested or needed.

February 6 last, the Committee published a statement on Consumers Union in its annual report from which we quote the following: "Steps were initiated by Consumers Union through its officers and legal counsel to clarify this situation. After hearings and thorough study, the Committee find there is no present justification for continuing this organization as one that is cited and future reports and publications will reflect that this organization has been deleted from the list of subversive organizations and publications." The incidents from which the earlier charges of subversion took off occurred in 1937-38.

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WHITTIER CONFERENCE. The proceedings of the Second Intellectual Freedom Conference (at Whittier, Cal.), edited by Fredric Mosher, are now in the editors' office at ALA publishing headquarters and will be published shortly under the title Freedom of Book Selection. Proceedings of the First Conference (Freedom of Communication) appeared last month.

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SAN ANTONIO'S CONTINUED STORY. A year ago a plan to label more than 500 books in the San Antonio Public Library set off a series of events which have not yet come to an end. The city's mayor announced his support of the book branding; the acting city manager proposed that the books be burned instead of stamped; and six of the nine-member city council favored either branding or burning.

Librarian Julia Grothaus announced that the library "does have books on Communism, some by suspected or known Communists. These books are carefully chosen so that the reader may learn all that should be known about Communism... After all, you cannot remain ignorant about a thing and fight it."

Unanimously supporting the library's stand against both book burning and labelling were the library board, whose chairman, M. M. Harris, editor of the San Antonio Express, declared, "I do not propose to preside over the degradation of the San Antonio library system." Supporting it also were a number of civic groups, one of which, under the leadership of Maury Maverick, went into action under the name of the American Activities Committee.

In the midst of the following weeks of controversy a new library board was appointed. Among the four former board members was Harris. But three of the eleven new members refused to serve in so "controversial" a situation and had to be replaced.

At one of the first meetings of the new board, a proposal to hold up new book purchases until the books could be examined by board members was defeated by one vote. At later meetings, large book orders were held up while new board members debated the manner of purchasing. Then city

officials cut the library budget by 20 per cent, half of the cut being finally restored under what one of the city's newspapers called "popular pressure." The library, said the paper in an editorial headed "Library Heckling," is "a half year behind in its purchasing program."

Board discussions early this year were racked by differences over the meaning of "censorship." Then, on February 11, by a vote of 6 to 5, the board adopted the Library Bill of Rights as official policy on book selection. As reported by one newspaper, the policy was "slipped through" while a woman board member, overcome by a fit of coughing, was visiting the powder room. At this same meeting, however, every member of the board was personally recorded as opposed to book burning and branding.

In April the city council stated its intention to appoint "none but city residents to municipal boards and commissions"--a slap at the library board (the city charter specifies that library trustees "shall be electors of Bexar County"). On April 30 seven board members were due to be replaced or reappointed. Harris, "the old gray champion of books in San Antonio," has said that he would under no circumstances accept reappointment. How the new board will function, we have as yet no information.

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DARTMOUTH BROADSIDE. We have a few copies of the handsome broadside of the remarks on "Don't Join the Book Burners" by President Eisenhower at the Dartmouth Commencement of last year, and will distribute them one to a customer while they last. (Enclose 15 cents for mailing costs, please.)

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LETTER WRITERS ATTACK LIBRARY POLICY IN XENIA, O. A switch in the conventional attack on a public library appeared in an anonymous letter signed "Disgruntled" to the Xenia Gazette. The letter writer charged the library selection committee with "groping in the dark," asked why murder mysteries, westerns, how-to-do-it books and "rather silly romance novels always head" the list of new acquisitions, noted a rumor that certain books are "held off shelves and kept in a special locked room," and inquired if this wasn't censorship.

Two days later another anonymous letter signed "Bookworm" appeared in the Gazette reciting an instance in which five copies of a best selling novel, after examination by the library staff, had been sent back to the publishers and citing another case of record in which a best seller had been banned from the shelves. "Thus the board, or the librarian, or the staff," concluded the writer, "sets itself up (as Hitler did when he burned the books he didn't like) and tells the tax-paying public which pays their salaries, what it can and cannot read."

Newly appointed Librarian Elizabeth Baker in a succeeding issue of the paper welcomed the opportunity to reply with a list of a dozen books recently added to the library; samples: Until Victory: Horace Mann and Mary Peabody (Tharp) and The Spirit of St. Louis (Lindbergh); she explained library selection policy and told why 250 books out of 86,000 were kept in a locked case (they were, she said, "mainly technical books, or rare or expensive books").

John Davidson, member of the library board of trustees, also replied in a dignified letter supporting in no uncertain terms the right and duty of the librarian to select the library's books.

And springing to the defense in an effective letter distinguishing censorship from selection was a former Xenia librarian Mildred W. Sandoe. "These are days," she wound up, "when those who believe in non-censorship and in the right of American citizens to read what they choose and do their own thinking need to stand up and be counted. Let's be lions, not worms--not even bookworms. Let's sign our names to our letters."

End of correspondence.

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KENTUCKY'S LOYALTY AND "RED" LITERATURE. A bill introduced into the Kentucky legislature outlawing "subversive" organizations and instituting a system of loyalty oaths is dead, apparently in deference to ex-Vice President Alben W. Barkley's campaign for U. S. Senator; Barkley is expected to use McCarthyism as an issue. Also apparently dead is a bill to ban "Communistic" literature from Kentucky schools.

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FILM ON FREEDOM TO TEACH. From the "Defense Bulletin," February, 1954, we learn that a movie is being produced in Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School in Montgomery County, Maryland, on the freedom to teach, tentatively to be called "The Truth Which Keeps Us Free." In the film, Mrs. Orin, a social studies teacher, is called upon by the board to explain why she is teaching controversial issues. The film is the answer of the fictitious Mrs. Orin and her fellow teachers to this query. It is being produced in cooperation with the National Education Association.

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THE TIMES ARE CATCHING UP WITH JUSTICE HARLAN. Almost fifty years ago in a dissent in the Berea College case, Supreme Court Justice John M. Harlan remarked that "The right to impart instruction...is a substantial right of property"--one of the few legal statements to be found on academic freedom anywhere. Justice Harlan, the "Great Dissenter," deserves to be better known in these days. A native of Kentucky and a slaveholder before the Civil War he said in another dissent concerning segregated education: "The Constitution is color blind."

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DUSTSTORM IN HOUSTON, TEXAS. In March Peter Jaeger, a high school teacher in Houston was fired and another teacher was transferred to another position following the reading in a classroom (some months before) of D. H. Lawrence's take off on Benjamin Franklin's thirteen points on morals. An Assistant School Superintendent charged that Lawrence's work and a novel by Philip Wylie also read aloud to high school students, were the "vilest kind of literature."

Both teachers had refused to sign a resolution passed around their high school which denied that there was "unrest" in the school. Occasion

for the resolution, Jaeger contended, was the imminent investigation by a committee appointed by the NEA Defense Commission to look into circumstances surrounding the dismissal of Houston's deputy superintendent of schools, George W. Ebey, the previous year. Ebey had been charged with disloyalty by a person representing a group of people wishing to remain anonymous; he was cleared of disloyalty but then by a 4 to 3 vote the School Board had refused to renew his contract on the ground that he had become "controversial."

Ralph O'Leary, reporter for the Houston Post, received the 1953 Heywood Brown Award for his series on the Houston chapter of the Minute Women of the U. S. A., Inc., showing that much of their work is done anonymously. (See Newsletter II: 2, p. 5)

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REMINDER LIST. Here is a lineup of books published in the last 12-month on intellectual freedom:

BUT WE WERE BORN FREE. By Elmer Davis (Bobbs-Merrill). A best seller

THE TEST OF FREEDOM. By Norman Thomas (Norton). One of the sanest

FREEDOM, LOYALTY, DISSENT. By Henry Steele Commager (Oxford)

THE URGE TO PERSECUTE. By A. Powell Davies, pastor of All Souls (Unitarian) Church in Washington (Beacon)

I PROTEST. By Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam of the Methodist Church (Harper)

ON FREEDOM AND EDUCATION. By Harold Taylor (Schuman)

FREEDOM AND PUBLIC EDUCATION, ed. by Ernest O. Melby and Morton Puner (Praeger)

ERA OF THE OATH: NORTHERN LOYALTY TESTS DURING THE CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION. By Harold Melvin Hyman (University of Pennsylvania)

FREEDOM OF COMMUNICATION: PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM, ed. by William Dix and Paul Bixler (American Library Association)

FREEDOM AND LOYALTY IN OUR COLLEGES, ed. by Robert E. Summers. Reference shelf 26:2 (H. W. Wilson)

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SECURITY AND FREEDOM. A balanced, intelligent survey of intellectual freedom appears in an 84-page booklet, "American Security and Freedom," just issued by the American Jewish Committee, 386 Fourth Ave., New York 16.

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BOOK INVESTIGATIONS IN MONTGOMERY AND ARLINGTON COUNTIES, VA. In February a proposal to make lists of textbooks used in Montgomery County schools (or to be considered for use) available to "civic and patriotic organizations" was voted down by the County School Board. Instead, following protests from such groups as the League of Women Voters and Parent-Teacher Associations, the board agreed to establish a textbook section in their professional library for public "perusal." Retained was the principle of selection as the "responsibility of the professional staff and the board."



In April criticism of books in sexual education in nearby Arlington County schools and in the county's libraries came into the open. The critic, Mrs. Ernest J. Holcomb, said she didn't have censorship in mind, but she did find five books offensive, and called for a formulation of "policy." On April 11, the Washington Post and Times-Herald published not only Mrs. Holcomb's statement, but a defense of present book selection policies for Arlington school libraries by Mrs. Elizabeth Campbell, chairman of the Arlington County School Board. She said the libraries used standard guides of selection by "joint committees representing such groups as the American Library Association, the National Council of Teachers of English, and the National Education Association."

Another problem in Arlington was "subversive" literature. Mrs. Mildred Blattner, director of the Arlington Library system, has since April been gathering a great deal of material on communism, book selection practices and other subjects for consideration by the county board, who are to enter upon an "investigation" of library materials and principles in late May. The outcome is pending as we go into print.

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CENSORSHIP EFFORTS OVER THE BORDER. In January members of the Victoria (B.C.) Public Library board advocated "investigation, listing, and disposing of subversive books," and Victoria's Mayor Harrison offered, if no better facilities were found, to burn the books in his own furnace. Immediately protesting were C. K. Morrison, E. S. Robinson and Margaret Clay, members of the Public Library Commission of British Columbia. Students of Victoria College (affiliate of the University of British Columbia), according to an A. P. dispatch, marched to a spot where they burned Mayor Harrison in effigy. The provincial Premier, W. A. C. Bennett, then called book burning a "bunch of nonsense," and added that the Victoria library's quarter of a million books would not be investigated.

At the same time, John Marshall, Victorian bookmobile librarian for a month (bookmobile service having just been organized) was fired without a hearing, presumably for youthful membership in a "radical" organization. The British Columbia Library Association in February went on record 1) that "the employment or dismissal of any person shall be based only upon his competence to perform the professional and technical duties involved and that any personal beliefs become pertinent only when they interfere with the quality of the services rendered"; and 2) "as firmly believing in the Canadian ethical and legal concept that a man must be considered innocent until he is proven otherwise; and we highly deprecate and condemn the present attempt to damage a person's reputation without proving that he has failed to maintain the ethics of his profession or to meet his obligations as a citizen."

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ALCOHOL AND READING IN FLORIDA. David Lawrence pointed out in a February 17 column that in response to protests from the WCTU, Florida was planning to "burn" 200 copies of a book bought for school purposes, Alcohol and Human Affairs--and that Senator McCarthy was in no wise responsible.

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AUTHOR VS. CONTENT. The Hastings-on-Hudson Board of Education, as reported by the Yonkers Herald Statesman, adopted a resolution, after long discussions, declaring that it was their policy "not to purchase books for use in the school which preached the doctrine that Communism is preferable to our American democracy or which advocated the overthrow of the United States government by force." At the same time it retained in the library copies of Howard Fast's Goethals and the Panama Canal, judged on its content as unobjectionable by a reader-board member. A minority member opposing both actions, had called the resolution meaningless, and had insisted that no book by a Communist or Communist fellow-traveller had "any business in our public schools at any time."

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BOOK REMAINS ON SHELVES. According to the United Press, The Wonder of Life, a book on sex education became the subject of controversy in Argenta (Ill.) schools. After study by an advisory committee and the showing of a film Human Growth the committee recommended that the book be left in the library during school hours, but not for use by Junior High school students. It said the book should not be checked out of the library without the consent of parents.

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MOTION PICTURE CENSORSHIP. By unanimous decision, the U. S. Supreme Court on January 18 overruled official censors in New York and Ohio who had banned the showing of two movies, "La Ronde" and "M". The decision placed motion pictures in the same category with public speech, radio, stage, the novel and magazine as not subject to precensorship. A month later a Cole County Circuit Court Judge declared Kansas City's movie censorship ordinance unconstitutional.

Other repercussions of this decision may be found in state legislation. In New York the legislature passed and Governor Dewey signed into law two bills aimed to strengthen the New York motion picture censorship law by defining the terms "immoral" and "tend to corrupt morals" (criticized as undefined by the Supreme Court decision), and Ohio censorship may also be "strengthened."

Impact was also felt in New York on legislation against comics. Strengthened perhaps by arguments put forward by Frederic Wertham (see his new book Seduction of the Innocent), three bills to assist local law enforcement officers in clearing newsstands of obscene magazines and comic books were signed into New York law April 14. One bill increases the minimum fine for sale or distribution of obscene materials. Another bars "tie-in" sales, under which a newsstand operator could be required to accept an allotment of indecent publications in order to receive his regular shipment of unobjectionable books and magazines. The third includes municipal counsels or legal officers among officials who may bring an injunctive action against sellers or distributors of obscene publications.

Two bills aimed specifically at pocket-size books did not get out of committee in the 1954 session of the New York legislature.

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CHAPLIN. Eight women according to the Phoenix (Ariz.) Gazette,

joined in objections to the showing of four early Charlie Chaplin film comedies by the Public Library. The library advisory board decided, however, by a vote of 4 to 1 that the films would be shown and recommended that the city council adopt a five-point policy outlawing "censorship." Examination of the policy statement indicates that the five points were adapted from propositions in the Freedom to Read statement.

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LBR, PROPOSITION 1. The February 15 issue of The Firing Line, published by the National Americanism Commission of the American Legion, criticizes Howard Mumford Jones, who spoke at the dedication of the University of Wisconsin Library, for quoting from the Library Bill of Rights the sentence, "In no case should any book be excluded because of the race or nationality, or the political or religious views of the writer."

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BOOKS RETURNED TO DELAWARE. The Newcastle Education Association, according to Wilmington, Delaware newspapers, adopted a resolution protesting against any censorship, removal, or other restrictive practices involving books in school libraries. Approved unanimously, the resolution opposed "the banning or rigid restricting of certain books in our libraries because of the political leanings of their authors." It also called for teaching "about Communism" in public schools, covering "the principles and practices of the Soviet Union and the Communist Party in the United States."

The resolution came before the Education Association a few weeks after Dr. Ward I. Miller, Wilmington School Superintendent, had disclosed that books by certain allegedly Communist authors had been removed a year ago from the libraries of Wilmington schools.

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ADD - FREEDOM TO READ. The Texas Library Association on April 1 officially endorsed the Freedom to Read Statement.

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CRACKER BARREL FORUM IN COLORADO. On March 28, the Denver Post published a double-page spread on the American Heritage program combatting censorship by book discussion meetings in McCoy (Colc.), an old stage-coach stop. McCoy's population is 18, but it has a library of 3,000 volumes, and the discussion was recorded as lively.

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HIGH WALL. William H. Smullen, president of the Anti-Communist League of New Jersey successfully halted a showing of the film "High Wall" in Red Bank, N. J., according to the Orange (N. J.) Transcript. But when he tried the same tactic in his home town of East Orange, he was rebuffed.

Smullen claimed that the film was "pure propaganda intended to show a distorted picture of American life by twisting a fragment of truth" and

charged that the narrator and principal actor in the film, Irving Pichel, is "a member of nearly 30 Communist fronts."

Byron Hopkins, librarian of the East Orange Public Library, replied that the film used in the American Heritage Program would go on. ("High Wall" pictures an outbreak between teen-age groups that lands two boys in the hospital. It was produced under the joint sponsorship of B'nai B'rith, the departments of public instruction and welfare of Illinois and the Columbia Foundation of San Francisco.) Hopkins said, "We are proud to show it." He indicated later that the crucial point in the handling of the situation was the earlier adoption by the library board of the Freedom to Read statement as library policy.

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PW. As we go into print, two items catch our eye in the May 22 Publishers' Weekly: defense of the Southwest Review by the trustees of Southern Methodist University against attacks by John Beaty, SMU professor of English and author of The Iron Curtain Over America, p. 2156; and the recent debate over censorship principles in British courts, p. 2164.

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Paul Bixler

(from Antioch College,  
Yellow Springs, Ohio)