

# Intellectual Freedom

Intellectual Freedom Committee of the American Library Association

Prepared by Paul Bixler, Secretary

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THANK YOU AGAIN. In November our ALA committee received a grant from the Fund for the Republic, making possible an improved and more frequently issued Newsletter. This is naturally a great pleasure to announce. But having put the Newsletter on a paid subscription basis a few months ago, we now find ourselves in a little embarrassment. What about the dollars (424 of them) which we received for individual subscriptions? We shall cheerfully refund the subscription price to anyone who requests it. But unless you do ask it, we shall keep the money for current expenses. (A third of it had already been spent by December 1 when the new budget became available.) Those who paid for their subscriptions have already received one issue; they will now receive considerably more in the coming months than anyone could have expected earlier. We salute each of you paid subscribers again. Had you not sent in your dollars, the Newsletter would now be out of business.

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DO YOU WISH A FREE SUBSCRIPTION? This issue will be sent to many who have not seen the Newsletter before. Numbers will be mailed this year on a free basis, and if you wish to have a subscription, just say so on a postcard or letterhead and mail it to us.

HEADQUARTERS

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JAN 24 1955

## THE COMICS

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The chief "reading matter" to dominate the news in the past few months has been comics, usually but not always limited to the type known as "horror comics." In many areas women's clubs or American Legion auxiliaries have instituted a crusade against the offending publications. ("Millions of Women Join Battle Against Crime Comics," reads one headline.) Attacks have taken many forms. The most popular method has been the "book swap" (see below). Other results have been a call for a censorship committee or for local legislation to ban horror comics from newsstands. As noted elsewhere in the item headed NODL LIST in this Newsletter, the National Organization for Decent Literature includes comics, and a number of pharmaceutical organizations have effected a clearing of certain drugstore shelves of its black-listed comics, magazines, and paperbacks. Much too infrequently has action followed the admonition that campaigns against horror comics will fail unless, in the words of one crusader, "we work twice as hard for good books."

In a number of cities the emotion about comics has been channelled in a more positive direction. In Akron (Nov. 12) the Adult Education Association, the Federation of Women's Clubs, and PTA Councils from the area joined in a workshop on "The Impact of Comic Books on our Children."

Seventy-five participants were expected; more than 300 came. The audience heard a lawyer, a sociologist, a high school student, the secretary of Canton's Committee for the Promotion of Good Reading Habits, "Comics czar" Judge Charles F. Murphy, and Professor Edgar Dale, Ohio State University's expert on communications; and they had a chance to ask questions. The group did not "take action." (A proposed city ordinance to ban comics had already been put in abeyance.) Juvenile delinquency was not highlighted, and the meetings' general result was, if we may judge from the questions and answers, an improved understanding of the problem of comics.

Censorship. In the many meetings over the country the possibility of censorship has often been given a quick brushoff. One of the places where it was laid on the line occurred at St. Paul, Minn. David Berninghausen, former chairman and secretary of the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee, commented on the new self-regulation of comics: "While Judge Murphy's censorship may do some good, it disturbs me to think of establishing a system of censorship which allows only materials which bear an official stamp of approval to be circulated... Censorship, once begun, has a tendency to grow."

Pointing out the dangers of censorship is one of the chief contributions librarians can make to discussions about comics.

Legislation. There have been demands for ordinances to ban horror comics in a number of cities. In Los Angeles the County Superintendent of Schools actively supported such local legislation. In some places efforts have been made simply to include comics in materials already prohibited, for reasons of obscenity, in existing legislation. In Akron Edward O. Erickson, municipal director of law and student of the problem, pointed out the significance of the First Amendment and the pitfalls of this type of legislation, much of which is unconstitutional or ineffective. Mr. Erickson strongly advises against new legislation, but if pressure for a municipal law is overwhelming he has a model ordinance (unpublished, but we have a copy in our files) which confines the prohibitions to "comic" books "which, read as a whole," are of an obscene nature; to "comics" which portray specified crimes (but are not news nor of an historical or literary nature); to sales to children under 18 ("obscenity" statutes traditionally refer to persons generally, not solely to children).

Book Swap. The most popular method of dealing with the "comic problem" has been the offer of "good" books to all children willing to give up their comics. In Canton, O., where the scheme first found favor (see Newsletter III: 1, p.2), 30,000 comics were turned in at one swap conducted on the Public Square, the city providing free bus transportation; one boy who brought in 815 such books received as reward a set of the World Book Encyclopedia. In Huntington, W. Va., the Public Library conducted the swap. In Nashville, Tenn., and Roanoke, Va., Cokesbury bookstores gave Bible cartoon books in exchange for horror comics. In Vancouver, B.C., the Junior Chamber of Commerce saw to it that the comics exchanged for "a historical, animal or nature lore book" were publicly burned; an A.P. account of the last was published in more newspapers than all the rest of the "swap" stories combined.

"The best answer to a bad book is a good book" became a slogan in some communities, but the form of action it took was not always the same. In Santa Barbara, Calif., after the usual agitation against crime and horror comics and the demand for a city law, Public Librarian John E. Smith, at the suggestion of the editor of the News-Press called

together a citizens committee. Some of the city's elementary schools were already operating small libraries of recreational books (in part Public Library books) run by volunteers from the P.T.A. The newspaper, the largest local distributor of comics and paperbacks, and the P.T.A., in full cooperation with the Public Library, have now enlarged the recreational library system to cover all the city's elementary schools. (School authorities have now acknowledged responsibility for elementary school libraries.)

Code and Czar. In January the first comics issued with the seal of approval of the new Comics Code Authority will be on the newsstands. By late February all books produced by adherents to the code should carry the seal. Twenty-eight of the thirty-one major comics publishers are members of the Comics Magazine Association of America; they support the Code Authority which the industry, like those of baseball and the movies, has imposed upon itself following public criticism. The "code" publishers produce 75 per cent of the 60 million comics published each month. (The code may be obtained from the Comics Magazine Association, 41 E. 42d St., New York 17.)

Code Administrator Charles F. Murphy, for nine years a magistrate in New York's Juvenile Court, says he does not view comic books as a primary or even serious source of juvenile delinquency, but he does see the present campaign as a valuable effort to improve the tone and taste of children's reading matter.

Each member of the Authority's small reviewing staff reviews an average of two comics a day. Since October 1 when the Authority went into operation, 126 stories have been rejected as unsuitable and 5,656 individual drawings have been blue-pencilled and replaced by acceptable panels.

Judge Murphy does not think it likely that the Authority can eliminate more than 75-80 per cent of objectionable material. He thinks to date 70 per cent of it has been eliminated. He appears to have full respect for public opinion. He says, perhaps irrelevantly, perhaps not, that in a warehouse in Indiana there are stored 8 million comic books so undesirable that no one wants any longer to offer them to the public.

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COURT RULES ON CENSORSHIP POWER. The Court of Appeals has ruled (N.Y. Times, Washington, Dec. 16) that the Postmaster General may not prevent continued publication of a magazine because certain issues contained obscene matter. Magazines included were three nudist journals, whose future issues had been banned because of lewd material found in past issues.

The ruling stated that to let the present orders stand would allow the Postmaster "to suppress putatively lawful activities."

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THEY HAVE A LITTLE LIST. In various parts of the United States the Minute Women of America have been going through the catalogs of school libraries (and sometimes public libraries as well) checking against a sheet headed "What to Look for in the Library of Your School." At the top of the sheet six books (headed by A Field of Broken Stones

by Lowell Naeve and David Wieck) are introduced with the comment: "Look especially for the following books, because they contain material that is SO filthy, SO immoral, or SO politically dangerous that it is obvious that they are unfit school material to ANYONE. (Pg. excerpts furnished on request.)"

Below is a list of authors "extremely well listed as to their Communist and/or Communist-front affiliations by various government investigating committees," with the further direction: "You are bound to find a few of their books in the schools. If you find many then you will know your library has been tampered with." The list appears to have been developed from that of Minute Woman Mrs. Myrtle Hance of San Antonio (see Newsletter II:1, p.1; II:2, p.5; II:3, p.5). It has been widely copied and used.

It is this sheet which Mrs. Anne Smart has adapted and supplemented in her campaign for censorship in Marin County, Calif. (see Newsletter III: 1, p.3) and in San Francisco. In the mimeographed copies which she has been circulating "Prof" has been inserted after the names of George S. Counts, Robert S. Lynd, and John Dewey. Below the names (total of 67) the reader is advised to "check the 8th report of the Calif. Senate Investigating Committee in Education for a few more. Obtainable by writing Honorable Joseph A. Beck, Sec. of the Senate, Sacramento, Calif. Must for anyone working with schools. (Documentation on above by request.)" Beneath this are the authors and titles of ten "UNESCO books to look for," including Partners - the United Nations and Youth by Eleanor Roosevelt. (A year ago Mrs. Smart attempted to have all references to UNESCO deleted from UN materials used in Marin County classrooms.)

According to a November 12 story in the San Francisco Chronicle, Mrs. Smart has turned her fire on San Francisco authorities for refusing to withdraw from school libraries four books she regards as subversive or obscene. "She debated the matter with Margaret Girdner, the system's director of texts," the story says, "at a luncheon meeting of the San Francisco Women's Legislative Council." Seventy-five women "adherents of Mrs. Smart's" from northern California counties "occasionally hooted Miss Girdner's remarks."

Mrs. Smart said she favored "voluntary book burning...the only kind we will ever have in the United States." In an editorial the Chronicle criticized her "curious crusade," and concluded that the decision about school books "must rest with school officials, not with self-chosen censors."

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DISCONTENT IN LOS ANGELES. Using a list similar to that of Mrs. Smart in Marin County, according to the Los Angeles Times (Oct. 6), Gene Hageberg, one-time Dies Committee investigator, demanded that five books which he found to be "vulgar, profane, filthy, immoral and obscene," be removed from Los Angeles school library shelves. To this request the head of the city's Division of Instructional Services replied that the five books were already "on the restricted list" along with fifteen others sequestered earlier following the controversy in Marin County. He added that if readers found any off-color material in the books, "they will be discarded."

Two weeks later, as if in reply, the Library of the University of California at Los Angeles presented an exhibit on "The Necessity of

Freedom" by the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the California Library Association from the words in the Freedom to Read statement: "The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is under attack." And according to the Los Angeles Mirror (Dec. 10) a new citizens group has charged the Board of Education with "shortsightedness, censorship and false economy," and announced a search for board candidates in next April's election. The group includes leaders in religion, education and labor. It cited as evidence a Mirror poll of last March in which social science teachers admitted that they "were fearful of teaching as freely as they did a decade ago." Criticisms of the board included "removal of teaching materials in human relations, international relations, sex education, mental hygiene, and anthropology, against the professional judgment of the staff, and elimination of an Advisory Committee on Human Relations, 'despite increasing racial tensions' among pupils." Also cited was "yielding to irresponsible pressure groups - i.e., refusal to accept funds from the Ford Foundation to expedite teacher training."

Still later, the Los Angeles News (Dec. 17) reported that a 12-member committee of teachers, librarians and other curriculum experts had reviewed four of the five books attacked by Hageberg in October, that they found no intent by the authors to be "profane, filthy, immoral or obscene," and that the four would be returned to restricted shelves "for use as originally intended" by teachers only. The fifth book A Field of Broken Stones could no longer be found. There was no report of the additional fifteen volumes.

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"GARBAGE" IN PASADENA. Answering a complaint by the father of a Muir High School co-ed that a story by Richard Connell in Adventures in American Literature was "a piece of literary garbage," Walter S. Young, president of the Pasadena Board of Education, replied after reading the story, that it had its merits and would remain on the reading list.

The anthology is in wide use in high schools. Connell was a popular author of the 1920's and 1930's, and his story, "The Most Dangerous Game," is generally considered an example of suspense writing at its best. Commented Young, according to the Pasadena Star News: "It is my opinion that in spite of the blood lust which is undeniably in the story, it is no different than other stories of man's inhumanity to man...I am told that it arouses active group discussion and I am sure the vivid delineation of the villain is not lost on our young people."

Objection to the book was made by letter. But Pasadena citizens can register protests against school books on official forms available at the Board of Education.

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REGISTRATION OF PRINTING EQUIPMENT. Censorship was threatened in a number of bills and committee actions in the session of the 83rd Congress just past. So far as actual legislation is concerned, however, the most serious threat to intellectual freedom probably appeared in a bill proposed by Senator Herman Welker and passed without much debate by a voice vote. The law requires Communist-action and Communist-front organizations to register their printing equipment. Commented the American Civil Liberties Union: "This legal requirement is an interference with free expression and violates the First Amendment."

Undoubtedly, test cases challenging this law will be undertaken." J. Russell Wiggins, managing editor of the Washington Post and Times-Herald, called the law the "nearest thing to press licensing that has existed on this continent since colonial times."

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LBR AND FTR. In November the New Jersey Library Association unanimously endorsed the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read statement, and in forwarding both resolutions to the New Jersey Library Trustee Association urged adoption of both by all boards of trustees as policies for libraries under their jurisdiction... In September the Board of the Library for Intercultural Studies (New York City) approved the Library Bill of Rights... The Plainfield (N. J.) Public Library adopted the LBR in 1949. Two letters suggesting censorship and a delegation from a local church with censorship in its eye have been turned off since, then, according to Library Director Luke White, by citation of LBR policy... Women for Legislative Action of Los Angeles recently went on record as commending the ALA's stand "against censorship of library books."... In October the California Library Association endorsed the Freedom to Read Statement, attacking "attempts in several communities in California at suppression of books in libraries."... In November the Colorado Library Association endorsed both the LBR and FTR...

Are there other similar actions as yet unrecorded in these pages?

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CIO SUPPORT IN CALIFORNIA. The Council of the California CIO supported the freedom to read at its fifth annual meeting in Oakland November 19. Attempts at suppressing books, the resolution indicated, is merely part of a larger pattern of pressures being brought against education, the press, films, radio and television. "Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove books from sale, to censor textbooks, to label 'controversial' books, to distribute lists of 'objectionable' books or authors, and to purge libraries." Such attempts, it continued, rest on a denial of a "fundamental premise of democracy - that the ordinary citizen, by exercising his critical judgment, will accept the good and reject the bad."

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"TRUE" FREEDOM. "The Catholic Church has frequently been regarded as a foe of intellectual freedom because of censorship of the written word, and censorship is of interest to the Catholic librarian because of 'the apparent problem it creates.'" The Milwaukee Journal of November 14 thus reported Father John A. Schulien, Professor of Dogmatic and Sacramental Theology at St. Francis Major Seminary and Archdiocesan Censor of Books, speaking before the Wisconsin unit of the Catholic Library Association at Marquette University.

"The practice of censorship in the Church stands vindicated before the bar of reason, and history must yet prove that because of it man has been hampered and retarded in his never ending search for the true and the good," Father Schulien was quoted as saying. "When discussing censorship we must keep in mind that we are dealing with a fact, for censorship is a common expedient used by all as occasion warrants." Censorship is "irksome and begets opposition," because it imposes restrictions and restraints.

"The reaction is generally more pronounced when directed against the practice of the Catholic Church," Father Schullien continued. "It charges the Church with violating human liberty, insulting man's intelligence, fearing and concealing the truth, prejudicing an issue in its own favor, retarding the progress of science, scholarship and so forth. In seeking to reconcile intellectual freedom and censorship, we must distinguish between the legitimate use of censorship which does not conflict with freedom and the abuse of censorship which destroys genuine freedom."

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NODL LIST. According to an A.P. dispatch (Utica, N. Y., Oct. 23), novels by Ernest Hemingway, Emile Zola, William Faulkner and others were withdrawn from many local drugstore racks when pharmacists "opened a drive against sale of objectionable literature," using a list recommended by the National Organization for Decent Literature. The drive followed an offer of cooperation by the New York State Pharmaceutical Association to New York's Joint Legislative Committee on Comic Books. Paper-backed books were reported similarly withdrawn from drugstores in Binghamton and some other New York state areas.

The blacklist of the National Organization for Decent Literature was also used in Burlington, Vt., where the Board of Aldermen voted to give themselves the right "to censor adult literature" by a vote of 9 to 3. The Burlington News of September 28 listed the titles of 150 comics, over 250 magazines and 65 "digest-type novels" banned by the Aldermen. Elsewhere in Vermont, Roman Catholic and Protestant churches in Ludlow, Proctorsville, and Cavendish, with the NODL list in hand, planned to check stores and newsstands and give those that cooperated a plaque for handling only "clean literature." More details of these drives appear in the December 28 Bulletin of the American Book Publishers Council.

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SUGGESTED READING. For a well rounded discussion of censorship, including material on motion pictures, we suggest Fred B. Millett's "The Vigilantes" in the spring, 1954 Bulletin of the American Association of University Professors; and for censorship in England, "Police Against the Publishers," October 2 New Statesman and Nation.

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BOOK CALLED "UNSUITABLE." The sixth-grade textbook Russia by Vernon Ives, which was the center of a dispute in New Hyde Park, Long Island (see Newsletter III: 1, p.2-3) has been called "unsuitable for use in public schools" by the Nassau County American Legion executive committee and been referred to New York State educational authorities for "further action," according to the Garden City (N.Y.) Newsday (Nov. 8). When the county Legion organization has received a report on the book, "it will be sent to all 62 posts in the county."

The same book was the focus of a new policy established by the Mineola (N.Y.) school board (Garden City Newsday, Nov. 12). There "slanted or controversial" school library books will be put on "reserve" and loaned to students only with a teacher's approval, in order to "protect" them from "propaganda."

The board's statement of policy directs librarians to use book

lists recommended by the State Education Department, but guarantees that "the judgment of the librarians shall be accepted in the selection of library material not appearing on accredited bibliographies." According to the Newsday story, Superintendent of Schools Raymond H. Ostrander said that the policy was prepared by a faculty committee as a result of the New Hyde Park controversy. He added that "controversial subjects should be taught in the classroom. Both points of view deserve a hearing. If a teacher is asked his point of view, he can give it - at the end of a discussion."

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SAN ANTONIO - CHAPTER FOUR. The San Antonio Register (Nov. 5) reports that a move to discontinue audio-visual educational services in the Public Library has been abandoned "because of widespread protest." This is the latest event in a series of controversies which have disturbed the library and its board for more than a year. (See last three Newsletters.)

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FREEDOM TO DEBATE. The type of intellectual freedom most frequently referred to in news columns and on editorial pages the last several weeks is the "recognition" of China as a topic for collegiate debate. First event in the national discussion was the decision of four Nebraska state teachers colleges not to debate the subject of admitting China to the United Nations. The reason, in the words of President Herbert L. Cushing of Kearney Teachers College was that "naming of the Red China topic showed a desire to indoctrinate students." Then the Military Academy at West Point and the Naval Academy at Annapolis announced they were not going to debate the topic chosen for this year's forensic tournament (scheduled to be held in April at West Point) by the Speech Association of America: Shall the United State extend diplomatic recognition to Communist China? Annapolis's and West Point's ban on the topic still stood after President Eisenhower said he would be inclined to let the cadets and midshipment publicly argue the question. The national discussion took a new turn when a Duke University student, learning that the Library of Congress material on the subject could be obtained only through his congressman, wrote Representative Edward J. Robeson and received in reply a request for the names of the "National Debating Council" and of the Duke debating coach, and a suggestion that the student might be embarrassed "for the rest of his life" by quotations from any statements he made for the affirmative side of the question.

The national Intercollegiate Committee of the SAA stood by its choice of topic, and the colleges supported the decision by continuing with their debates. (Only one other college, Roanoke in Virginia, refused point blank to debate the subject.) Editorial opinion and individual comment on the Robeson remarks and the topic's prohibition by civilian colleges was practically unanimous and occasionally breathed fire and brimstone. Aftermath came in mid-December from FBI director J. Edgar Hoover in response to a question raised by the editor of the University of New Mexico Lobo, school newspaper: "I can assure you the FBI has no interest whatsoever in college debates as such. We would never engage in any activity which might result in stifling academic freedom."

Editorial reaction to bans by West Point and Annapolis ran a little better than two opposed to one for. West Point had said it was

against policy to involve cadets "in debate on such a controversial subject, on which in any event national policy has already been established." Annapolis had said that for midshipmen to debate "Communist doctrine would make them liable to misrepresentation as well as providing the Reds a tremendous propoganda device." Where the ban was supported in other terms, the traditional American priority of the civil over the military was emphasized; there were a few references to President Truman's dismissal of General MacArthur for "free expression."

The New England Forensic Association recommended (Nov. 27) that the national intercollegiate debating tournament scheduled for April 22-23 at West Point be moved elsewhere unless the ban is lifted. According to an A.P. dispatch (Dec. 8 ) West Point has sent out its invitations to colleges to participate, and will be asking them to set the topic for debate. If the majority choice is U.S. recognition of China, "a spokesman for the academy said,... 'we'll just be hosts, not participants.'"

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THE RIGHT TO LEARN AND THE RIGHT TO TEACH. In a widely published A.P. dispatch (Des Moines, Nov. 6) Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam told the Iowa State Education Association, "Self-appointed illiterates have organized agencies under high-sounding names for the alleged purpose of saving our schools from subversion" and have "contributed to undermining the very bastion of the free way of life. No Communist could want more than to have the American lose faith in our school system"... A similar note was struck by Prof. Henry Steele Commager of Columbia University in Chicago (A.P., Nov. 8)...

In another widely published A.P. dispatch (Atlantic City, Nov. 12) Governor Robert B. Mayner told a convention of the New Jersey Education Association that teachers "have been victims of demagogues" and that many of them were afraid to deal with controversial issues. He cited a recent poll in which a majority of teachers answered yes when asked if they believed teachers hesitated to compare the Russian system with the American for fear of a misunderstanding of their motives. ...

In Indianapolis, home base of the American Legion, the National Council for the Social Studies affirmed the right of teachers to teach about Communism and the right of young Americans "to be free to learn" about issues of contemporary affairs, according to a U.P. dispatch from Indianapolis (Nov. 27)...

In California the Public Relations Panel of the state teachers association in a statewide mailing to school administrators and teachers groups stated (Nov. 26) that "it is the obligation of public schools to teach about controversial issues." They urged that school boards and school administrators formulate a policy for the guidance of teachers in leading examination and discussion of controversial topics. "Although conflicts of high intensity have arisen in many school districts in California," the statement said, "only a few districts have adopted policies to be used as guides in ... discussion of subjects in controversy." The panel is made up of four educators, a banking executive, a publisher and a radio station president. Earlier the California School Supervisors Association had affirmed the right freely to discuss controversial issues.

In mid-December the San Francisco Board of Education passed a resolution prohibiting teachers from taking part in campaigns of

candidates running for office in San Francisco city and county. The action followed campaigning by some teachers against reappointment of a school board member who had voted for budget cuts. The resolution was called "patently unconstitutional" and destructive of teachers' civil rights by Arthur F. Corey, executive secretary of the California Teachers Association.

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A SUGGESTED CODE FOR TEACHERS. The N. Y. Times for both Nov. 21 and 23 reported that a code outlining the "Responsibilities and Rights of the Teaching Profession in a Democracy" was announced at the annual meeting of the New York State Teachers Association in New York City. The code is intended as a guide "to enable teachers to explain more effectively their position and platform to their community and also to help them answer some of the unjustified criticisms leveled at schools." Rather than serve merely as a statement of principles, the code is to help teachers draw up their own statement of responsibilities and rights. Included was the "freedom to present all sides of controversial issues objectively and fairly."

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INCIDENTAL INTELLIGENCE. Twenty issues of the N. Y. Times have been banned in Spain this past year (five of them in December), the ban extending to copies that diplomats, including members of the United States embassy, order from local distributors. "From what could be gleaned" - to quote a Times (Madrid, Dec. 21) dispatch - "virtually all issues bore news that apparently, for reasons of official policy, had not been published in the Spanish press."... Imputing "censorship" to the Library of Congress by Harrision Smith, president and associate editor of the Saturday Review, for sending him a prepared script for radio broadcast on Sinclair Lewis has not been well received. Smith, who was to rework the script as he pleased, was seeing "bogeys under the bed," commented a Washington Post and Times-Herald editorial. ... Movie censorship in Pennsylvania under its present law was ruled unconstitutional in a recent Common Pleas Court decision. ... Cuts from three films were ruled unlawful by a 5 to 2 vote of the Ohio Supreme Court recently though the state's censorship act was not ruled unconstitutional. ... The Foundation for the Authenticity of the Bible and for Religious Liberty, Inc. has threatened Colorado University with court action for teaching evolution on the grounds of the First Amendment's provision of separation of church and state. University officials may reply by invoking the First Amendment's provision on freedom of speech. ... Peter Jaeger, Houston English teacher dismissed last March for reading passages from D. H. Lawrence and Philip Wylie to his high school pupils (see Newsletter Vol. II, no. 3, p.7), has brought a \$75,000 damage suit against three Houston school officials, alleging (Houston, A.P., Dec. 9) that the three officials conspired to "charge and smear plaintiff as a full-fledged Communist and as being un-American."...

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Paul Bixler

(from Antioch College,  
Yellow Springs, Ohio)