

Intellectual Freedom Committee of the American Library Association

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LEGION POST APOLOGIZES. Following an editorial blast at the Punxsutawney (Pa.) Public Library by the Legion News published by the John Jacob Fischer Post, no. 62 of Punxsutawney (see Newsletter IV:2, p. 4), the Board vigorously protested the "scurrilous attacks" on its members. Background of these attacks was the fact that last year when the board learned of threats to intellectual freedom it published the text of the Library Bill of Rights with an announcement that it had adopted the LBR as library policy. Throughout the ensuing controversy the board has stood together unanimously.

The legal dangers of Editor Wehrle's attack having been pointed out to the Post's members, they not only issued a letter of apology to the Board for the editor's remarks, but recalled a letter sent to the Borough Council asking changes in the Board's membership.

Post members insisted that they had a list of authors which they said was cited by the United States Attorney General as subversive and that all these authors' books should be removed from the Public Library or be labelled with a stamp which the Post offered to provide. A wire to Washington brought the following answer from Joseph Alderman, chief of Subversive Organizations Sections, Internal Security Division: "Attorney General designates organizations only under the Federal Employee Security Program and has no authority to characterize publications or individuals."

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DISTINCTION. A public library official writing to Mrs. Anne Smart for copies of lists of proscribed books received the lists with the following penned comment: "My lists are primarily for books that shouldn't be in schools. The main trouble with public libraries are the books they don't have. Send to Facts Forum, Dallas, Texas and request a list of All-American books. A. S."

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CENSORSHIP AT THE WATER'S EDGE. Defending the right of San Francisco book dealer Jeremiah Feingold to receive shipments of books imported from Russia, the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California has wrested from the Post Office Department and the Customs Bureau a victory described as won "in fact but not in principle" (San Francisco News, Jan. 27). Feingold imports books in Russian for such clients as the Army Language School at Monterey, the Library of Congress, the University of California.

In past months customs officials, acting under a 1938 law barring foreign political propaganda, have confiscated copies of works by Shakespeare, Dickens, Tolstoy, Pushkin, Mark Twain, Chekhov, and De Maupassant. At

times Feingold has received Russian books while other copies of the same works have been impounded. According to the ACLU Bulletin (March 5), customs officials have said that although a particular book may not itself be barred, "it may be confiscated if it is packed in the same carton with works that we classified as foreign political propaganda." On one occasion a copy of Tom Sawyer was barred because of a "propaganda" preface written by a Russian editor which stated that "Tom was a bad boy because he lived in bourgeois America" and that "Mark Twain's writings show how a capitalist regime corrupts men."

The Post Office Department has agreed to lighten Feingold's economic hardship (several book houses have objected to sending him further books on consignment) by releasing books "found not to be nonmailable per se," and by notifying the book dealer when books addressed to him were confiscated and giving him a chance to argue against the department's decision that they contain foreign propaganda. Still untouched is the ACLU's contention that the Post Office's power to censor material from abroad is employed unconstitutionally.

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"STORM CENTER." One of the possible events of the June ALA meeting at Miami Beach is showing of the documentary-type film about a library's fight for intellectual freedom, starring Bette Davis. Librarians at Mid-winter meeting in Chicago were given a brief preview by word of mouth by producer Julian Blaustein and writer-director Daniel Taradash. Miss Davis plays the town librarian in a dramatization which tells of the blight which affects a community when the right to read is tampered with. The book in dispute is an invented one called "The Communist Dream." Climax of the film is destruction of the library by fire, set by an impressionable 10-year old boy, whose values the dispute and attempted censorship have destroyed.

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN REJECTS LEGION DEMAND. A request to forward lists of foreign periodicals in the university library to the U. S. Customs to ascertain if any appear on lists of publications officially denied entry into the United States was one of three demands the Wisconsin American Legion made of the University of Wisconsin February 1 (Madison Capital Times). Other demands were that the university ban from campus the Labor Youth League, which is on the Attorney General's list, and that the university deny its facilities to speakers with a public record of subversive activities. University President E. B. Fred refused to change the university's policy but the controversy and its repercussions have continued for more than six weeks.

In denying the three requests, President Fred pointed out that students should be convinced that their freedom and responsibilities are equal to those of citizens in the state outside the university, and he said he knew of no changes since the legislative inquiry of 1954 into university policies that would require reconsideration. He called the university's intellectual freedom "an essential educational experience."

Concerning library policy, Legion Commander G. E. Sipple commented: "With reference to our question on the Communist propaganda publications presently at the university library, this was not answered. The university does not say they are willing to submit the list to the customs service. Our question had to do only with the current publications and we were thoroughly unaware of the other propaganda materials in the library.

"We are very much disturbed that the university is proud of this great collection and would feel much better if they were known far and wide for their pro-American and anti-Communist literature. It would seem that such a collection of Communist propaganda would normally invite and attract Communists and Communist sympathizers to the campus."

The university library committee's report, according to the Milwaukee Journal (Feb. 7), had mentioned pride in the library's collection of Communist literature and added that it had been used in preparing anti-Communist programs.

Editors of the student Daily Cardinal issued a statement (Madison UP, Mar. 15) saying: "We are as opposed to the Labor Youth League as we are attached to freedom of speech and the press."

Dissent from the state Legion's position came from three Legion leaders in Milwaukee county. And one of the most forthright editorials in support of the university's stand appeared in the Wisconsin Veteran, official paper of the state's Veterans of Foreign Wars.

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BOOK CENSORS IN SOUTH CAROLINA. Late in March the South Carolina Senate concurred in a resolution earlier approved by the House asking the State Library Board to remove existing books and to screen future books "antagonistic and inimical to the traditions and customs of this state" (Columbia, S. C., AP, Mar. 24). The resolution stemmed from a furor over Swimming Hole, a children's picture book depicting three little white boys and two little Negro boys swimming together. The South Carolina State Library purchased 16 copies of the book in 1951, and 12 are still in circulation, according to news reports.

The resolution passed both houses despite considerable comment opposing censorship and reference to Hitler's book burning. One newspaper editorial concluded: "Small boys playing in that old swimming hole didn't know black from white--until they grew up into politically minded state senators and got mad at the Supreme Court."

A state representative from Jasper said that if Swimming Hole were removed from library shelves the action might be extended to the Bible because of its reference to Ham on the Ark.

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TORONTO CENSORSHIP. Canadian librarians have protested Toronto's Board of Education decision to remove Little Black Sambo from school bookshelves (N. Y. Times, Feb. 4). The board made its decision after

hearing complaints from a Negro delegation and others that the popular book was a cause of mental suffering to Negroes in general and children in particular.

W. R. Castell, Calgary librarian, pointed out that the book was written in 1898 by Mrs. Helen Bannerman for her two children, and that the setting is India, not Africa. "The book does not even concern Negroes," he said. "Everything in it pertains to India, even the clothing and the house where Black Sambo lived."

Jean Thomson, Toronto children's librarian, commented that "all the boys and girls who have read Little Black Sambo have done so without any suggestion of harboring derogatory feelings."

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CENSORSHIP PROVISION IN NEVADA SCHOOL CODE. Passage of a 131-page School Code by the Nevada legislature included, in spite of opposition by Nevada's librarians, a provision reading, "The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall approve or disapprove lists of books for use in school libraries, but such lists shall not include books containing or including any story in prose or poetry the tendency of which would be to influence the minds of children in the formation of ideals not in harmony with truth and morality or the American way of life, or not in harmony with the Constitution and Laws of the United States or of the State of Nevada." Another section of the code added that the State Board of Education "shall approve or disapprove the action of the Superintendent of Public Instruction with respect to the lists of books for school libraries."

The Nevada Library Association circulated the School Library Bill of Rights and a statement opposing the two sections of the code, and the organization fostered introduction and passage of two amendments making the superintendent's power in book selection advisory and giving the specific responsibility for school book selection to County Boards of Education. The Assembly adopted the amendments. The Senate first voted not to concur, on the following day reversed its stand, then on the next day re-reversed itself. In the closing hours of ironing out the differences on the code between the two houses, the amendments were finally sacrificed. Forces defeating the amendments were said to be the pressures against extensive discussion and circulation of such behind-the-scene terms as "subversive" and "pink." NLA President Joseph F. Shubert says Nevada librarians will continue the effort to remove censorship provisions from the code at the next session of the legislature

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WELCOME. Two new publications have appeared in the field of intellectual freedom:

1. Bulletin of the Department of Religious Liberty of the National Council of the Churches of Christ, 287 Fourth Avenue, New York 10. The first issue (in February) treats thoughtfully of such topics as religious liberty abroad, censorship, and mixed marriages, adoptions, and the religion of children.

2. Censorship Bulletin of the American Book Publishers Council, 2 W. 48th Street, New York 36. The first two numbers (December, 1955 and March, 1956) of what might be described as an improved extension of an earlier ABPC censorship bulletin have received an excellent press, in particular a Bulletin editorial on the freedom to read.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION ABDICATES. According to a 1953 state law, the West Virginia State Board of Education must approve by July 1 a list of at least five books for each required subject in each elementary grade. To assist the 15 members of the advisory Board's Textbook Committee pass upon the more than 300 books involved, Chairman E. S. Shannon has called in the national Americanism Commission of the American Legion. "When a national organization makes a specialty of examining such books," he is quoted as saying (AP dispatch, Charleston, W. Va., Mar. 7), "perhaps they know more about it than we do." He added that the commission is "not a rabid group" but an organization with a reputation for doing a "scholarly job."

In a two-column editorial the Charleston Gazette charged the West Virginia Textbook Advisory Committee with shirking its duty, denied that the search for opinion need go outside the state, and asked that if it really did, why not try the U. S. Office of Education? As for the Legion, continued the editorial, any claim that it "has a profound understanding of the subject would be open to debate.

"In fact, the very idea of an independent, unofficial group telling our educators what our children shall or shall not read is repugnant. It smacks of censorship and police tactics.

"Witness the Legion's book burning brigades that started an investigation in Illinois a few years back. Before they were finished the stamp of 'treasonous' had been affixed even on the 'Girl Scout's Handbook.'"

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FREEDOM OF ART IN DALLAS. A year ago the Public Affairs Luncheon Club, described by the Dallas Morning News as a "powerful women's group," charged that the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts showed an increasing tendency "to overemphasize all phases of futuristic, modernistic and non-objective paintings and statuary and to exhibit, promote and acquire the works of artists who have known communistic affiliations." The club cited as a few of the most objectionable artists Diego Rivera, Pablo Picasso, Max Webber, Jo Davidson, George Grosz and Chaim Gross, and suggested their paintings be replaced with those by orthodox patriotic Texans. Coming to the support of the club's position were also the Metropolitan American Legion Post and the Inwood Lions Club.

Stanley Marcus, President of the Dallas Art Association, pointed out that Communists oppose abstract or modern painting, and he vigorously defended museum freedom. "A museum, like a library," he said "must show works of people with varying degrees of style and thought."

In December, the Museum's Board of Trustees passed a resolution

establishing their policy as one "to exhibit and acquire works of art only on the basis of their merit as works of art; and to exercise their best judgment to protect the integrity of the Museum as a museum of art and as a municipal institution."

In January, the trustees received a request from the Dallas County Patriotic Council to remove from a forthcoming exhibition, "Sport in Art," the paintings of four artists on the grounds of questionable loyalty; the letter also asked that the Art Association "redeclare your policy to not buy or show any works by persons who have communist or communist-front records." The trustees rejected the request of the council by a recorded vote of 23 yeas, no nays, and 3 abstaining.

The exhibit, "Sport in Art," was organized for the Olympic Year of 1956 by Sports Illustrated, published by Time, Inc., and was put together by the American Federation of Arts. Both the National Gallery of Art and the Metropolitan Museum contributed pictures to the collection. After the pictures have toured the United States, the United States Information Agency has arranged a final showing in Australia where the exhibition will represent this country in the fall of this year. A search by Sports Illustrated revealed that none of the artists appears in any government file of subversives.

In February, three trustees of the Dallas Art Association reviewed the facts of the case in a signed 1500-word statement issued to the local community. It was their final conclusion that "it is important once and for all time to dissipate this nonsense that any single group in our community is the custodian of the patriotism of the rest of us. We reject and resent the imputation that we are less patriotic than others and that because we hold a different opinion of Museum operation that we and our Director are 'dupes.'

"In conclusion, the fundamental issue at stake is that of Freedom and Liberty--not just for the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, but eventually for our school system, our free press, our Library, our orchestra, and the many other institutions of our society. We believe that Democracy cannot survive if subjected to book-burning, thought control, condemnation without trial, proclamation of guilt by association--the very techniques of the Communist and Fascist regimes."

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BOOKS AVAILABLE. In addition to copies of the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read statement, the Labelling statement, the School Library Bill of Rights, and other items, we have available for free distribution Banned Books: Informal Notes on Some Books Banned for Various Reasons at Various Times and in Various Places, by Anne Lyon Haight, revised ed., Bowker Company, 1955, 152pp. This book is far from being a well rounded survey, but it gives many interesting facts about particular cases of censorship.

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LBR FOR FREEDOM AGENDA. "If there should be any attempt to put pressure on your library," says News Letter, No. 7 of Freedom Agenda,

"remember the Library Bill of Rights...." It reprints the five points of the LBR. (For Freedom Agenda's program, see our Newsletter IV: 2, p. 5.)

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OBSCENITY ON THE NEWSSTANDS

No issue stirred so many communities during the past two months as that of "obscene literature" on sale at drugstores and newsstands. Much attention focused upon pictorial "girlie" magazines, but paperback literature also drew fire. (There is some agreement that the volume of comic books, particularly of objectionable comics, is markedly less than it was.)

Communities have reacted variously to the problem. A few have prosecuted distributors of pornography under obscenity laws and/or have put their problem before a grand jury. More have organized teams of citizens to put the "heat" on news dealers and distributors to withdraw objectionable materials either from sale or from view. A board of review to educate the public toward better reading and recommend legal action for objectionable material has been established in some cases. Brief examples of what has been happening follow:

New York State. The legislature passed and lay before the governor for his signature legislation increasing the penalties for manufacture and sale of obscene material, calling for confiscation of equipment used to produce pornography, and requiring that the name of the publisher or printer be affixed to any publication sold or distributed in the state. In its campaign for enactment, the Joint Legislative Committee on the Publication and Dissemination of Objectionable and Obscene Materials published a slick-paper sampling of its own of violent and pornographic material, and warned of the possibility of censorship unless "certain sections of the publishing industry awaken to their responsibilities and stem the flow of filth"; however, it did not introduce a considered proposal to create a state censorship board.

New York City. The city license commissioner, working with a special committee of representatives of news dealers in what he called "a self-policing operation," banned 24 magazines (mostly of "nude figure studies") from park stands (N. Y. Post, Feb. 28).... William Michelfelder, a reporter for the World Telegram and Sun wrote a series of articles in March showing that pornography is a "multi-million-dollar racket" in the city and that out of nearly 100 pornography peddlers arrested in two years only two were convicted in court.

Michigan. The U. S. Supreme Court has agreed to review conviction under a Michigan law which bans publications containing material tending to "incite minors to violent or depraved or immoral acts." A Detroit newsdealer was fined \$100 under the law for selling a paper-bound copy of John H. Griffin's The Devil Rides Again, and the Michigan Supreme Court refused to review the decision. The American Book Publishers Council and the Authors League of America have filed briefs in support of the defendant contending that the book is not obscene and that the law is unconstitutional.

ERRATUM: Title above should read,
The Devil Rides Outside.

Wyandotte, Mich. Half a hundred men and women, organized under the Wyandotte Civic Organization for Decent Literature, visited 29 newsstands and drugstores in January, to "sell" distributors on ridding their racks "of material that is salacious, vicious and brutal, unfit for teenagers exposed to it--and for decent-minded adults no less." An editorial in the Wyandotte News-Herald (Jan. 23) likens the action of this "new army" to the city health department's protection against communicable disease and to police and school vigilance against accidents to children.

"The aim," says the editorial, "is not censorship or the banning of the so-called literature from town." The "goal is to move it to the back of the stores, away from the places where local youths congregate." In use is a list of disapproved books and magazines which has been compiled by the Detroit Council of Churches, the Detroit Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women and the Detroit Council of Church Women.

Earlier stories indicated that the basic lists came from the National Organization of Decent Literature and that plans of the group followed "book stand clean-up drives" organized in Detroit suburbs Lincoln Park, Allen Park, Ecorse, River Rouge, and Trenton.

Milwaukee. Three Chicago men have been indicted on charges of sending obscene magazines to the city (Journal, Mar. 27).... The Metropolitan Crime Prevention Commission has encouraged individuals to protest to proprietors or distributors for displaying publications "with lurid covers" at newsstands as well as to write radio and TV stations, protesting murder and crime stories and "too suggestive" radio disk jockeys.

Hackensack, N. J. Following a grand jury investigation into "obscene literature," a newly formed Bergen County Citizens Committee for Decent Literature issued a long statement of purpose, of which a second provision said: "It is not the purpose of this committee to impose censorship or interference with the constitutional rights of any citizen, group, organization, publisher, distributor or dealer."

Rhode Island. A nine-member commission created last year by the state assembly to study newsstand literature reported in February that such literature is "vulgarizing" the minds of the young. Teenagers, according to their report are being fed "a strong and unrelieved diet of sex brutalities and abnormalities at an age when they should be learning reverence for the sacred things of life." The issue, continued the report, "is not censorship but one of self-defense. It is not protection of our children only, but self-protection from the results our own neglect has reaped in them." Chairman of the commission was Clarence E. Sherman, librarian of the Providence Public Library.

Based on recommendations in the report, the state Senate passed without opposition a bill to stop publication, distribution and sale of picture books devoted to methods of crime, illicit sex, horror or terror and to end sale to minors of pornographic pictures and obscene books and magazines; maximum penalties were \$1,000 fine and two years in prison (Providence Journal, Mar. 15). Also based on its recommendations was a bill passed by

the House creating a permanent commission "to educate the public" concerning any indecent publications "tending to the corruption of youth"; the commission could investigate and recommend prosecution for law violations.

Chicago. Charles Levy, president of a major distributor of popular literature, told the Mayor's Commission on Objectionable Literature that approach should be made to the publishers rather than the exhibitors. He is in sympathy with the commission's aims, he said, but he suggested also "positive action" through teachers in the schools. "We knock our brains out trying to get teachers to let students know how much good literature is available in pocket books," he added.

St. Louis. The Circuit Court grand jury has been investigating sales of obscene literature in the city, and the St. Louis County Council has recently passed a controversial "anti'smut" bill. The Post Dispatch has called for "prudence, not sensation" (April 7). It points out that a municipal law already on the books contains safeguards not found in most other laws. Its "administration is in the hands of a board of review rather than directly in those of the police. Further, this board has assumed the positive task of promoting the wider circulation of acceptable juvenile books and publications." Under this law a conviction of selling obscene magazines has been obtained, and arrests of four persons for "possession of obscene literature with intent to sell" have been made.

Boston. Early in March Public Works Commissioner George G. Hyland, who issues some 30 licenses for the storage and sales of magazines on city streets, inserted a clause in each license requiring that the licensee neither display nor sell any periodical "objectionable to the commissioner of public works." The American Civil Liberties Union has taken issue with this form of censorship. So also have several Boston newspapers.

Elsewhere. The Dartmouth chapter of the American Association of University Professors has condemned as an instrument of censorship in New Hampshire the so-called "Detroit List" (put out by the Detroit police).... Fargo, N. D. is to have a seven-member city committee to study the problem of obscene literature and movies.... A Committee for Clean Literature in Corpus Christi, Tex., is compiling a report and plans to "sell" its recommendations to the public.... The City Council of El Dorado, Ark., has passed an ordinance prohibiting not only the sale of obscene literature but also the sale or circulation of any literature rejected by the U. S. Post Office for mailing.... A Jaycee Juvenile Delinquent Committee in Chattanooga, Tenn., is warning local citizens about violating the several state and federal laws against obscenities.... Under a city ordinance prohibiting the sale of obscene literature, Lincoln, Neb. is prosecuting a local news agency for selling "art" magazines; the question is a definition of obscenity, and the case could go to the U. S. Supreme Court.... The Board of Review in Miami, Fla., has asked for power to ban an objectionable magazine from the stands until the publication makes a successful application for removal--this, because publicity has caused issues in question to sell out....

These cases make up a fraction of the national controversy over objectionable popular literature, principally in magazine form.

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ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Academic freedom has seldom received such widespread attention in the press as it did in the report of the special committee of the American Association of University Professors issued March 21; several hundred newspapers carried wire stories of the committee's demand for censure of five colleges and universities. There were in succeeding days many follow-up stories of the demurrers from the University of California and from Ohio State and many of the final vote of censure for eight institutions by the AAUP convention meeting in St. Louis April 7-8.

Newspaper editorial opinion was generally unfavorable, much of it violently so. Particular cases of academic freedom or its violation were not so frequently singled out for adverse comment as were the professors' contentions that special loyalty oaths for teachers were to be condemned; that use of the Fifth Amendment by a faculty member was not enough, by itself, to justify dismissal; or that a teacher's membership in the Communist Party was not sufficient ground for removing him.

Loyalty Oaths. Members of the AAUP had in mind not only the "oath" controversy at the University of California which had ironically been "settled out of court" four days before the release of their committee report; but also the Broyles oath law in Illinois which a circuit court in Chicago had declared constitutional March 3.

Fifth Amendment. By a 5 to 4 vote, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that New York City had been mistaken in automatically dismissing Professor Harry Slochower from Brooklyn College for invoking the Fifth Amendment in a Congressional hearing. Since in another decision the Court had recently invalidated state sedition laws, it was not clear to some how far states or municipalities might be limited in setting up requirements for their own employees. But it was clear that after reinstatement at Brooklyn College Professor Slochower would be suspended and face charges "that untruthfulness and perjury are conduct unbecoming a member of a college staff"-- a procedure which, according to President Harry D. Gideouse would have been "preferable from the standpoint of public as well as professional understanding of the essential issues that are involved."

At Carlisle, Pa., Laurent R. Lavallee was suspended March 20 from his economics teaching position at Dickinson College for invoking the Fifth Amendment before the House Un-American Activities Committee. (Dickinson faculty and students urged his reinstatement.) Professor Lavallee had been named by Dr. Herbert Fuchs before the same committee, and Fuchs, who had not invoked the Fifth, but had testified, had then been summarily fired by American University. The American Civil Liberties Committee criticized the university for dropping Fuchs from its law faculty after a hearing which "did not meet standards of academic due process," and the American Committee for Cultural Freedom urged that the university be censured for its action.

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POSTSCRIPTS. After ruling that the Post Office Department must give

the magazine Confidential a hearing before banning it from the mails (see Newsletter IV:2, p. 8), Judge Luther Youngdahl issued a second decision, ruling against the Post Office's complaint that his original decision was inequitable and unworkable....

The Santa Barbara (Calif.) Public Library has issued a rather comprehensive (though running to little more than two pages) Statement of Policy on the Selection of Books and Library Materials....

Restraining visiting speakers on the University of Oregon campus from talking on politics is not a university policy as reported in the last Newsletter, p. 10. The "controversy" over assembly policy as originally reported in the Eugene Register-Guard was a misunderstanding of remarks made earlier by President A. L. Strand of Oregon State College. "Our policy," he said, "is that we do expect to have political speakers on campus and we do expect that they will speak on political issues." (Portland Oregonian, Dec. 26)....

Dr. Albert Sprague Coolidge, lecturer in chemistry at Harvard, who was promised an appointment two years ago on the advisory committee to the \$600,000 chamber music foundation set up by his mother at the Library of Congress, has protested his nonappointment to the committee (see N. Y. Times, Feb. 1, and letter to the Christian Science Monitor, Feb. 4). A statement from Librarian of Congress L. Quincy Mumford on Dr. Coolidge appears in the LC Information Bulletin, Feb. , pp. 73-74....

According to an AP dispatch datelined Jackson, Miss., March 8 most Mississippians are only now learning that a \$155,000 appropriation for the Mississippi Library Commission for 1954-56 included a stipulation that \$5,000 be spent for "books dealing with the subject of ethnology"--which meant white supremacy. Commission records show few persons are reading the numerous copies of the books purchased with this money, and a new provision was recently introduced in the legislature (though we have no record of its passing the state Senate) providing that \$500 be used to tell the public how and where to get these idle white supremacy books....

After the Solvay (N. Y.) Board of Education voted by 3 to 2 to cancel class subscriptions for social studies students to the N. Y. Times, the teacher of the class submitted his resignation, effective at the end of the year, charging that "it's a matter of academic freedom" (N. Y. Times, Mar. 5 and 9)....

A junior engineering student who in a letter to the Wall Street Journal attacked an economics textbook used at Iowa State College and in attempting to prove its "socialist bias" quoted passages out of context, later reversed his opinions about the book. But the "controversy" has had its effect, and as one newspaper put it: "Economics: Experience and Analysis now joins the shelf of books listed as 'controversial' and colleges will be understandably reluctant to adopt it even though it might be the best in the field."...

Schools, churches and civic groups may be interested in a 30-minute film "Sound of a Stone." A father, finding what he has been told is a subversive book on his son's reading list at school, brings accusations

against the boy's teacher at a PTA meeting. Rising community pressure begins to deflate only when the father takes back his accusation at a school board meeting. Produced by the Broadcasting and Film Commission of the Methodist Church, 220 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C....

By a 4 to 3 vote the Montgomery County (Md.) Board of Education banned Paul H. Landis's Social Living from use in senior high schools because it "advocated opinions," but allowed the book to stay in school libraries for reference use (Washington Post and Times Herald, Jan. 11)....

A copy reader putting a headline on an editorial in a North Carolina newspaper about a threat of censorship in South Carolina has coined the word "libracidal." The editorial quoted the words of Milton, "he who destroys a good book kills reason itself," and the headline read, "Man's Shame Can Be Libracidal."...

Harvard University has barred from discussion in mixed meetings Morals and Medicine, a book dealing with philosophical considerations of sex (Boston American, Feb. 25). The book will be considered in lectures but not discussed in weekly section meetings of small student groups. A Catholic chaplain at Princeton, according to the American, has objected to its inclusion on reading lists there.

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