



newsletter

ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

PUBLISHED BY THE INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, ARCHIE L. McNEAL, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, CHAIRMAN, EDITED BY LEROY CHARLES MERRITT, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP, BERKELEY.

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Cunningham Wins

Although libraries and governmental agencies succeeded in making their point for themselves, the point was not made for the average citizen, who will henceforth have his allegedly Communist political propaganda mail held up until he says in writing that he wants it. The relevant language is found in a new section 4008, added to Sec. 305. (a) of Chapter 51, Title 39, *United States Code* by the Postal Service and Federal Employees Salary Act of 1962:

“§ 4008. Communist political propaganda

“(a) Mail matter, except sealed letters, which originates or which is printed or otherwise prepared in a foreign country and which is determined by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to rules and regulations to be promulgated by him to be ‘communist political propaganda’, shall be detained by the Postmaster General upon its arrival for delivery in the United States, or upon its subsequent deposit in the United States domestic mails, and the addressee shall be notified that such matter has been received and will be delivered only upon the addressee’s request, except that such detention shall not be required in the case of any matter which is furnished pursuant to subscription or which is otherwise ascertained by the Postmaster General to be desired by the addressee. If no request for delivery is made by the addressee within a reasonable time, which shall not exceed sixty days, the matter detained shall be disposed of as the Postmaster General directs.

“(b) For the purposes of this section, the term ‘communist political propaganda’ means political propaganda, as defined in section 1(j) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 611(j)), issued by or on behalf of any country with respect to which there is in effect a suspension or withdrawal of tariff concessions pursuant to section 5 of the Trade Agreements Extension Act of 1951 or section 231 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, or any country from which any type of foreign assistance is withheld pursuant to section 620(f) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

“(c) The provisions of this section shall not be applicable with respect to (1) matter addressed to any United States Government agency, or any public library, or to any college, university, graduate school, or scientific or professional institution for advanced studies, or any official thereof, or (2) material whether or not ‘communist political propaganda’ addressed for delivery in the United States

pursuant to a reciprocal cultural international agreement under which the United States Government mails an equal amount of material for delivery in any country described in subsection (b).”

Censorship in Crisis

The White House on October 24 asked newspapers, news magazines, radio and television stations to use “caution and discretion” in handling certain kinds of information regarded by the Defense Department as “vital” to national security during the Cuban crisis. The Defense Department had ordered all military commands to withhold information in 12 categories, which were specified in the press release, and added the cautionary word because of the possibility that some such information “may come into the possession of news media.” On October 29 the Pentagon announced that the restrictions would be continued indefinitely within government, but hope was expressed that the cautionary word to the press could be lifted soon.



—Hesse, St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

“That Makes You a Cold War Weapon”

The following day Arthur Sylvester, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, said that the Kennedy Administration used control of news of government actions in the Cuban crisis as a weapon in the drive to force the dismantling of Russian missile bases in Cuba. "News following from actions taken by the government is part of the weaponry. In the kind of world we live in, the generation of news by actions taken by the government becomes one weapon in a strained situation. The results, in my opinion, justify the means."

On Hallowe'en additional restraints on news coverage at the Pentagon became known, but a spokesman insisted these would not inhibit the proper flow of information to the public. According to the new limitations, officials of the Defense Department, at all levels, are effectively barred from providing newsmen with information except under specific conditions, to wit: "The substance of each interview and telephone conversation must be reported to an appropriate Pentagon press officer."

Two days later it was reported that Assistant Secretary of State Robert Manning was reviving a long dormant rule requiring department officials to report on each interview given to a reporter. Officials are asked to give the newsman's name, organization, date of interview and subject. Manning emphasized that the official was to report his meeting with any newsman in the department "after the fact" and this could in no sense be construed as requiring permission before any interview.

By then, November 2, the San Francisco *Examiner* headlined a long story thus: "News Censorship—Hot War in D. C.", a story which said in part that "Demands from editors throughout the nation kept pouring into the White House for the resignation of Sylvester over his admitted "management" of the news. The same day Representative John E. Moss sharply challenged Defense Department information policies as "news manipulation" and promised a congressional hearing into the matter in January.

Announcement

The Editor has been asked to prepare a *Public Library Reporter* on book selection and intellectual freedom. A major portion of the content will be devoted to statements of book selection policy in various areas of problem or controversy, as well as in more general and subject areas. The Editor would therefore appreciate receiving copies of their book selection policies from public and school librarians. Important to him also would be case studies of brushes with the tendencies toward censorship, how they were countered, and with what success. Accounts of other matters of professional interest or controversy are needed also, such as demand vs. value, purchase vs. inter-library loan, fiction vs. non-fiction, etc. "Books" are interpreted to include all library materials. Discounting editorial inadequacy, this new *Public Library Reporter* can be as good and as inclusive as the profession will make it. Send all materials to the Editor at 48 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, California.

Sigma Delta Chi Scores Governmental Secrecy

The National Freedom of Information Committee of professional journalistic society Sigma Delta Chi said in a report dated November 9 that government censorship under the Kennedy administration has been as tight as it was under Eisenhower and Truman, and that neither President Kennedy nor Congress appears eager to solve "the major American problem" of secret government in Washington. Committee chairman V. M. Newton, Jr., managing editor of the Tampa *Tribune*, was able to report steady gains at the state and local levels with fewer complaints being made each year about closed-door meetings and other attempts to keep public business secret. He found that 27 states had banned closed governmental meetings in the last 10 years. Newton also assailed the recommendation of the Judicial Council of the United States, made up of 22 federal judges, that cameramen and broadcasters be banned not only from courtrooms, but also from the environs of courtrooms—the hallways and corridors. His committee found that in Latin America, most countries are "on the side of freedom of the press." The only four which absolutely deny freedom of the press are Bolivia, Cuba, Haiti and Paraguay.

School Library and Textbook Problems

The National Council of Teachers of English warned on November 8 that pressures to remove important books from classrooms and libraries were growing across the country. In an effort to check such censorship over students' freedom to read, the Council has prepared a 21-page booklet entitled *The Students' Right to Read*, which provides guidelines on how to resist local campaigns that seek to prevent students from becoming acquainted with well-established authors.

The textbook committee of the ALABAMA DAR warned on October 5 that public school textbooks used in Alabama have been found to teach socialistic, collectivistic and other anti-American ideologies. Sample objectionable statement from page 714 of Magruder's *American Government*: "Many people favor the creation of a world government as the only real and permanent solution to the problem of lasting peace." The DAR does not deny the truth of the statement, nor does it accuse Magruder of advocating world government; it just objects to the statement being there.

The Rossmoor, CALIFORNIA, Parents for Better Education turned out in force on September 21 at a meeting of the Los Alamitos school board to insist on the right to veto textbooks. Chief target was Carl Sandburg; lesser targets were Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Anna Mae Brady and Christopher Morley. Objection was to any and all books by these authors because at one time or another during the 1930s and 1940s they had allegedly lent their names to organizations later listed by some investigating committee as Communist front. Leaders in the protest were Mrs. John C. Coleman and Robert Bernard.

The Bossier Parish, LOUISIANA, Police Jury on October 9 heard Dr. R. L. Parkman, Jr., spokesman for the Bossier Parish Conservative Club, charge that a total of 136 books by 28 authors with alleged Communist leanings were currently on school and parish library shelves. Not a book-burning movement, the Club presented a plan calling for the insertion of patriotic works by loyal Americans in an effort to "counter-balance the leftist books placed in our parish libraries by the state library system." Jury agreed to set up a joint meeting between its planning committee and the Parish library board. The following day Bossier Parish school superintendent Emmett Cope said that educators in the system "have made a concerted effort down through the years to weed out all subversive books from school libraries."

A junior high school principal and a ninth grade history teacher in Worcester, MASSACHUSETTS, in search of a more challenging textbook, selected Crane Brinton's *History of Civilization*, only to find that they objected to a chapter on the history of Christianity—not for what it said, but because it was there. Solution: cut it out. "It's hard to find a junior high history book that challenges bright pupils but does not contain material unsuitable for 14-year olds."

The book review committee of the Hicksville, NEW YORK, school board is headed by William A. Bruno, Jr., who considers that all books be eliminated from Hicksville schools which "do injustice to or do not promote the American cause." To help him and his committee decide which books and periodicals should be permitted in the schools, Mr. Bruno said on October 16 that he is planning to ask the HUAC and other federal agencies for lists of pro-Communist authors and publishers. All was in vain, however, for on October 26 the school board abolished the committee by a 6-1 vote, the 1 being Mr. Bruno's. Board members indicated the policy change was aimed at giving the faculty more leeway in exercising administrative initiative.

The Grapes of Wrath is one of four books recently stricken from the pupil reading list by the Palmerton, PENNSYLVANIA, school board, after several parents complained the books were not "proper" reading matter for their children. Effort was made to keep the four book titles secret (censorship of censorship!) but three of them became known on October 13 amid much furor over the effort at secrecy.

Censorship Defeats Baptists

Our October story under the obverse headline was written too soon. Although the Southern Baptist Convention did not censor Ralph Elliott's *The Message of Genesis*, it did reaffirm its faith in "the entire Bible as the authoritative, authentic, infallible Word of God" and urged seminaries to stamp out "theological views which would undermine such faith in the historical accuracy and doctrinal integrity of the Bible." Whereupon Baptist-owned Broadman Press, reading the handwriting on the wall, decided not to publish a second edition. When Elliott refused to promise he would not seek another publisher, the trustees of Kansas City's Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary "reluctantly and regretfully" fired Ralph Elliott from his professorship.

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Quigg Newton vs. Barry Goldwater

A philosophical discussion of politics by student Carl Mitcham in the *Colorado Daily* for September 21, which spoke critically of most present politicians including presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy and Senator Goldwater drew a demand from the latter that Mitcham be expelled and that the editor of the University of Colorado student newspaper be fired. Unnoticed at the time of publication, the article came to light when another campus paper called *The New Conservative* on September 26 published a telephone interview with the Senator, who had said he considered the matter very serious. Apologies were promptly forthcoming from President Quigg Newton and from the *Colorado Daily*, and the Board of Regents asked the university board of publications to investigate. But the Senator was not mollified and demanded punitive action.

President Newton's answer was quick and forthright: "We have a genuine democracy of ideas on our campus," he wrote the Arizona Republican. "We have fought long and hard to achieve it, and the fight has been against those who—like yourself—believe the function of a university is to indoctrinate, rather than educate; to control thought, rather than to stimulate it.

"The cry you raise has a very familiar ring to us: 'You must silence those who do not agree with me!' Senator, I shall not silence them."

These are noble sentiments, but the pressure was too great, and on October 18 *The Daily Californian* carried a front-page story that the editor of its Eastern contemporary had been fired.

President Newton later told a jampacked student audience why Editor Althen had to go (although both Althen and Mitcham remain enrolled as students). Academic freedom needs protection not only from those who do not believe in it, said Newton, but also from those who misuse it "to justify irresponsible actions which endanger the university." In a straw vote next day by 2,963 students, Newton's firing of Editor Althen was upheld by more than 2 to 1.

The Last Temptation of Christ

"Individuals have the right to read and interpret what they want." Based on this stand, the Arcadia, California, library board denied a demand that *The Last Temptation of Christ*, by Nikilos Kazantzakis be removed from the Arcadia Public Library as being "blasphemous and salacious." The demand was made by Irma Bethume, and by the Americanism Committee of The Watchdogs of Freedom, Inc., headed by Wilbur E. Smith. In denying the request, the library board reaffirmed a stand previously taken on intellectual freedom during the controversy over *Tropic of Cancer*.

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School Librarians Take Their Lumps

I.
John Farley's article in the September 15th *Library Journal* entitled "Censorship Isn't That Simple" is undoubtedly an honest attempt to clarify some of the problems of censorship in relation to school librarianship. That it seems to create more problems than it solves is perhaps only par for the course, but we would suggest that Mr. Farley needs to read Lester Asheim again, and perhaps again and again, until it becomes clear to him that under no circumstances does the school librarian in the proper exercise of her functions as a selector engage in any adumbration or activity which can even remotely be considered as involving censorship.

While it may be true that, "Neither Mill nor Milton nor anyone else worth reading has ever gone to the limit on freedom of expression or, by extension, on freedom of reading," we cannot agree that "everyone draws a line somewhere," or that, "everybody believes that some kind of censorship is necessary for the good of society." This we consider to be a proposition which, like the one about no two snowflakes being identical, has not been proven.

Furthermore, from the statement that "The most important stone in the foundation of the library profession is the belief that reading can have profoundly beneficial effects upon intellect, character and personality and therefore necessarily upon conduct," Mr. Farley infers that it follows necessarily that reading must be admitted to have similar ill effects. The validity of this inference we emphatically deny. What he forgets is that the good effects of reading are based on much reading over a long period of time — a lifetime in fact. And the ill effects of reading cited by misguided law enforcement officers and psychologists are always the result of a little reading over a very short period of time. Apart from the fact that there is no scientific evidence of any causality in any such cited cases, these much touted examples of the allegedly deleterious effects of reading ignore the fact that the people in question are hardly able to read anything at all. "Defend me from my friends; I can defend myself from my enemies." — Villars. (LCM)

II.

My article was concerned with the problems of the school librarian — the high school librarian particularly. I would most emphatically not want anything I wrote to be construed as an argument by me for the censorship of adult reading.

You state my assertion that everyone who has thoughtfully considered the problem favors some limitation on freedom of expression is a proposition that has not been proven. Perhaps so, but I think that the burden of proof lies in the other direction. That is, who has been absolutely opposed to every imaginable form of censorship, however minimal? In what society has there been nothing that, by any reasonable definition, could be called censorship?

You may have noted that even those whose opinions have been most liberal on the matter of censorship greeted with some dismay Justice Hugo Black's recent suggestion that our statutes against libel may violate the First Amendment. The reaction seemed to be that the very nature of a civilized society requires this form of restraint.

I think furthermore that you misinterpret my statement that since reading can have beneficial effects upon character and conduct it can also have undesirable effects. First of all, I would emphasize that I was referring, throughout the article, to adolescent's reading.

Secondly, you state that "the good effects of reading are based upon much reading over a long period of time," whereas "the ill effects of reading cited by misguided law enforcement officers and psychologists are always the result of a little reading over a very short period of time." I do not think that this is a refutation of my statement. I merely claim that if you insist that reading can have good effects upon young people you must concede that it can have ill effects. Your statement suggests a contrast which I do not think is relevant to what I wrote. I would not compare the effects of a lifetime of reading of good books with the effects of "a little reading over a short period of time." (JF)

Grosse Pointe School Board Makes a Point

Calling Robert M. Orr, Grosse Pointe Public Library director, a "Little Tin God" who has taken upon himself the task of community book censor, Mrs. Fairy Cassil, 53 Claireview, appeared before the Grosse Pointe Board of Education on August 13, demanding that two books by ex-Franciscan padre Emmett McLoughlin be placed on the library's "open" shelves.

The books in question, *American Culture and Catholic Schools* and *Crime and Immorality in the Catholic Church* are highly critical of Roman Catholicism, accusing the Catholic church of fostering low educational standards and high crime rates.

Mrs. Cassil charged that library authorities are "definitely favoring the Catholic Church" by their refusal to put the books on the "open" shelves. "We are adults. We should be able to pick our books and read them," the Grosse Pointe housewife said.

In rebuttal, Grosse Pointe School Superintendent James W. Bushong gave a brief summary of the library's purchasing policy, noting that some 13,000 new books are published each year, and that the Grosse Pointe Public Library buys about 3,000 of these.

The library's purchasing decisions are guided by national reviews and by the residents' demands. If there is enough of a demand for a specific book, even though reviews of it have been universally bad, the library will purchase that book. But if, in the opinion of the Board of Education, (which operates the Grosse Pointe Library system) the book is considered offensive or detrimental, it will be placed on the "closed" shelf, as the library refuses to sell or advertise such materials. Mrs. Cassil's demand was refused.

Renewal Notice

All readers are reminded that their subscriptions expire with this fourth issue in volume eleven. Volume twelve will include six issues, beginning with January, 1963. Your renewal check for \$3.00 sent now will save billing expense. We suggest the money-saving possibilities of multiple orders to the same address: Five subscriptions for twelve dollars; Ten or more for \$2.25 each. Do it now—before you read the next page!

Literature Ban Pleases Schools

On behalf of the Board of Education, Hazel Park, Michigan, School Supt. Wilfred D. Webb has sent a letter to the City Council thanking its members "for passing the ordinance controlling the distribution of literature within the city."

Hazel Park's recent city ordinance is aimed directly at unsigned political handbills, and was passed immediately after distribution of a pamphlet lampooning school administration policies. The ordinance apparently discouraged any plans for an additional handbill before the successful vote Sept. 17 on a three-mill operating levy for the schools. To date, no Hazel Park resident has stepped forward to challenge the constitutionality of the ordinance. Violation carries a maximum penalty of \$500 fine and 90 days in jail.

Cinema and TV

The Supreme Court on November 5 held that a motion picture distributor might not require a television station to buy a package of films to get the ones it wanted. Justice Arthur Goldberg wrote that such "block booking" violated Section 1 of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, which prohibits contracts in restraint of trade. The decision should have far-reaching effects in better TV programming, and in abrogating tie-in sales practices of magazine distributors.

An adults-only "nudie" film shown at the Santa Clara, California Moonlite Drive-In Theater was attacked on October 23 by freshman councilman Larry Gargher as injurious to Santa Clara's "identity." Other councilmen carefully skirted a proposed resolution of disapproval, fearing it might be interpreted as censorship, called for a report from Police Chief Frank Sapena instead. Films in question: "The Immoral West and How it Was Lost" and "Cover Girl Killers."

Rejected on August 7 by the Kansas State Board of Review "because of the extreme male nudity throughout," *The Sky Above — The Mud Below* — a film concerning tribal communities in New Guinea — was approved on August 25 with the recommendation that it be advertised as a documentary film. Three days later Herb Lyon reported that the SurfTheater in Chicago was battling the censors for an O.K. to play the film there.

Baltimore is to be the scene of a test case in which the courts will be asked to rule whether it is constitutional for any censorship body to ban a film before it has been shown to the public. A patently unobjectionable movie, "Revenge at Daybreak," was shown by Ronald Freedman without submitting it to the Maryland State Censor Board. Ten minutes later he was served with a warrant, and the film was withdrawn from public view the next day. Present point at issue is whether the Motion Picture Association of America will support Freedman and the Times Film Corporation, the distributor.

New York State Supreme Court Justice Kenneth S. MacAffer on October 8 forbade the producers of *The Connection* to resume commercial showings of the unlicensed movie pending adjudication by the State Court of Appeals. The film had opened in New York although the State Department of Education had, on the grounds of obscenity, refused to license it.

Because there was no admission charge, there was no objection by the State Board of Education when the film was scheduled for two public showings on October 19 at the Judson Memorial Church in Greenwich Village. Ephraim S. London, counsel for the film's producers, said the showings "point up one of the absurdities of the film censorship law. One is guilty of a penal offense if he shows an unlicensed film at a theater where an admission fee is charged. The law does not prevent a free showing of an unlicensed picture — presumably on the theory that it is not legally wrong to impair the health and morals of the people so long as they don't have to pay for it."

The anomaly became clear to the Court of Appeals by November 1, when it cleared the way for commercial shows. It refused to accept the case as a constitutional test of the censorship law, but merely affirmed without opinion a lower court holding that the film was not obscene within the meaning of the statute.

Concerned over community ire against suggestive motion picture posters, members of the Seattle city council license committee considered (1) new legislation that would prohibit theaters within 375 feet of any school or college; (2) whether the distance should be measured as the crow flies or by sidewalk; (3) notification of the Seattle Board of Theater Supervisors of the existing ordinance against obscene outdoor advertising on theaters.

In Re Justice Black on Libel: A Case in Point

The libel laws of Alabama have been attacked by a group of lawyers as a "device to stifle truthful reporting and open discussion of conditions arising in the South." Their stand has been endorsed by lawyers across the nation.

The group, headed by Theodore W. Kheel, is known as the Lawyers' Committee on the Alabama Libel Suits. It said in a letter to bar associations and law schools that the Alabama actions were an abuse of the judicial process and a threat to freedom of expression.

The letter, accompanied by a 2,500-word summary of several Alabama libel suits, was also sent to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. The committee is composed of 22 New York lawyers and one from Washington.

The protest was the latest development arising from a series of libel suits brought against The New York Times, the Columbia Broadcasting System and five Negro ministers in 1960.

Censorship in Reverse

The Louisiana legislature has made study of *Race and Reason*, by Carleton Putnam, compulsory in state schools. When asked to follow Louisiana, at least insofar as recommending the book to the state board of education, the Virginia legislature refused.

In Mexico City federal authorities were investigating the public burning of free mandatory textbooks in San Pedro de las Colonias, in Northern Coahuila.

On the Offensive

The first General Session of the 64th annual conference of the California Library Association on October 23 heard Stanford Professor of English Irving Howe speak on "Censorship: New Troubles, New Bearings." The Session was sponsored by the CLA Intellectual Freedom Committee, of which San Mateo County Librarian Virginia Ross is chairman. At the last General Session on October 26 IFC Chairman Ross presented a resolution opposing one of the more controversial propositions on the November 6th ballot in California. Membership approval of the resolution, though very strong, was not unanimous. The resolution follows:

Whereas we believe that existing Federal and State laws are adequate to control Communist activities and whereas the procedures which would be established by Proposition 24 constitute a grave threat to individual civil liberties and would have serious consequences for all librarians who are government employees, the California Library Association goes on record as opposing Proposition 24. (Editor's Note: Proposition 24 was soundly defeated.)

In Connecticut the Watkinson Library of Trinity College sponsored a "Freedom to Read" seminar on October 9 which was attended by 200 people who heard Grove Press president Barney Rosset say that censorship of books should not be permitted in this country. Providence public librarian Stuart Sherman and Dartmouth College professor of comparative literature Herbert F. West agreed there was less censorship today than 20 years ago. Fourth member of panel was *Banned Books* author Anna Lyon Haight.

The 70th annual convention of the Colorado Library Association heard University of Colorado historian Hal Bridges speak on "Freedom of Mind" at Boulder. "We must remember that these attacks on libraries and on freedom of the mind are nothing new. When we realize that similar harassments occur during every generation, a new perspective is placed on the attacks. Merely to see this problem in perspective of time gives us a calmer view of our immediate difficulties and gives us courage to continue our fight for freedom of our own minds."

Superior Court Judge Sam Epstein, subjected to tremendous abuse in the wake of his anti-censorship decision on *Tropic of Cancer*, was awarded the Illinois Library Assn's. Intellectual Freedom Award for 1962.

Welcome

We are pleased to welcome Volume I, Number 1 of *Recap . . . A Digest of Recent Trends in Academic Freedom in California Public Schools*. Devoted to publishing news and information about the continuing attacks on textbooks, and methods of countering them, this first issue gives prominent space to various American Library Association efforts in this area. The Advisory Board includes Los Angeles State College Librarian William Eshelman, former chairman of the California Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee. Subscriptions (\$1.00) may be placed with Mrs. Robert Solomon, 6501 Warner Drive, Los Angeles 48.

Dan Lacy, managing director of the American Book Publishers Council, spoke on November 8 on "Simple Freedoms and Complex Problems: Censorship and Freedom of the Press Today" at a public dinner meeting of the MARYLAND branch of the ACLU at Morgan State College.

The Nevada Library Association, meeting in Reno the week-end of October 20, heard a distinguished panel of librarians, authors, and attorneys discuss "The Right to Read: Censorship to Segregation," and promptly organized an Intellectual Freedom Committee, and named David W. Brunton chairman.

The Ohio Library Association, meeting in Dayton, heard Peter S. Jennison, of the American Book Publishers Council, speak on Sense and Censorship, and heard Ray Embrec, new chairman of the OLA IFC, talk of the importance of personal and library subscriptions to this *Newsletter*, of which 100 copies were distributed. Other state associations please copy.

The annual conference of the Wisconsin Library Trustees Association, meeting in Milwaukee, heard University of Wisconsin professor of English Adolph A. Suppan speak on Censorship of the Arts. It is reliably reported that he quoted freely from this *Newsletter*. Other professors please copy.

Citizens for Decent Literature

California State CDL chairman Donald Cortrum was the speaker at the first of six Parent Education Lectures sponsored by the Wilson High PTA in EL SERENO on October 11. The local *Star's* lengthy story was headlined: "Smut Racket Doubles in Four Years; Pornography Brings in \$2 Billion a Year."

"Perversion for Profit," a film feature in which George Putnam points out the danger of pornography, was shown to the Lennox High School PTA in HAWTHORNE, California on October 24. It was followed by a speech by Ray Gauer, Executive Director of Southern California CDL on "The Pornographic Conspiracy."

Seemingly most active was the INGLEWOOD CDL, which was reported on October 15 to have produced a film entitled "Pages of Death," which was shown, along with "Perversion for Profit" at the Woodworth School on October 12. In a report to the city council on October 16, CDL spokesman Barbara Murphy lauded its progress and accomplishments, after which police-woman Norma Neufner reported that sales of objectionable magazines were up as a result. "All this attention creates more interest in the magazines." Undaunted, the two films were shown again on November 5 and 6, the latter showing being for the benefit of liquor store owners whose shops were closed on election day.

CDL's Ray Gauer was also heard by the LOS ANGELES Downtown Optimist Club on October 18 at the Biltmore Hotel, where he produced samples of various "sadistic and depraved literature and pictures" and said that rarely is a perpetrator of a sex crime arrested without having in his possession some pornographic material.

On September 12 the CDL scheduled a public meeting in NORTH HOLLYWOOD on "Obscenity, a Menace to You, Your Family, Your Country," which was attended by some 30 people who heard local candidates for public office present their views on how the problem can be met, what legislation is needed, and what the public can do. Major view: The present law governing obscenity could be strengthened if the phrase "utterly without redeeming social value" were eliminated from the legal definition of obscenity. John E. Brennan, chairman of the Ventura County CDL told the OXNARD Exchange Club on September 6 that "sex mad" magazines, appearing on county newstands, are eroding the moral fiber of youth. Novel method of pressuring local legislative bodies into action: placing bulletin boards showing samples in city hall and county court house lobbies. "If it's okay for the newsstands, it's okay for city hall," concluded Mr. Brennan with impeccable logic.

Members of the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County spent part of their noon recess on October 9 leafing through "girlie" magazines, pocketbooks and a copy of *Tropic of Cancer*, by courtesy of the local CDL chairmen C. A. Raderstorf and Joseph E. Bonadiman, Jr. The presentation was just for the supervisors' information. Raderstorf said his group does not believe in censorship, but wants housewives to go to local stores, take a look at what's inside the books and magazines and "appeal to the owner to take the trash off his stands."

In an interview given before leaving to attend a week-long meeting of the national CDL of which he is vice-chairman, TORRANCE physician Don Cortrum said the national CDL officially has 700 branches. Since each unit is autonomous, however, giving the possibility of *non sequitur* nary a thought, he said a great many more chapters probably exist than those included on the national roster. He estimated between 1,000 and 2,000 communities have committees for decent literature.

Connecticut CDL sponsored a rally in HARTFORD'S Bulkeley High School on October 4 and 5, showing "Pages of Death," and presenting CDL founder Charles H. Keating, Jr. as the speaker. William Monk, of the Connecticut CDL spoke on October 8 at a pot-luck supper held by the Women's Association of suburban WETHERSFIELD. Hartford Mayor Glynn on October 4 issued a statement supporting CCDL's drive against smut.

More than 75 Montgomery County, MARYLAND, residents gathered at the Glenmont Methodist church on October 3 to lend their support to a newly formed CDL. Chairman James P. Gleason said CDL will attempt "to develop a cooperative relationship" with store owners who sell objectionable publications. Juvenile Court Judge Alfred Noyes said there is a definite relationship between juvenile crime and obscene literature.

Undesirable censorship or equally undesirable "smut and trash" on local newsstands? There's a fine line between the two, according to the Wyoming, MICHIGAN, CDL, which feels that it has been successful in treading that narrow and often controversial path. Its treading involves use of an "authoritative" NODL list, and asking drugstore and supermarket owners to place a sign on their newsstands stating that shoppers should

contact the store manager if any publication is found to be "objectionable."

The NODL list is used also by the Rutherford, NEW JERSEY, Clean Literature Committee, whose chairman, Thomas N. Monroe, complained to the Borough Council on October 15 that three local stores refused to cooperate. "Some take the books down, then put them back when we leave." The Schenectady County, NEW YORK, CDL held its first annual dinner meeting on October 16.

Back home in Cincinnati, OHIO, Charles Keating, founder of the CDL movement 8 years ago, announced formation of a new national organization which would produce a series of movies, publish a national weekly newspaper, and engage in legal research. St. Luke Catholic Church's auditorium was the locale of a meeting on September 28 to hear a panel discuss "Is Obscene Literature a Threat to Our Children?" Panel included CDL spokesman Robert Hagerty and U. S. Postal Inspector Frank Farrell.

CDL literature was available at a September 27 meeting of The Speakers Bureau of the Interfaith Committee for Decency at the Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Beaver Falls, PENNSYLVANIA. Sheriff John Hineman complained of the difficulty of getting convictions, which he said would be easier if citizens would show their concern through letters to court officials and through their presence as interested spectators at the time of trial. The auditorium of King's College in Wilkes-Barre was the scene of a public rally on October 24 by the Luzerne County CDL which heard New York CDL president William Riley speak on "Obscene Literature and Communism." Whatever the title, it was the same speech given by Cortrum in El Sereno on October 11.

It's Okay to Sell It — But Don't Discuss It!

Retailers are warned to be most careful in selling any literature which has been mentioned in the press as "obviously pornographic."

Books like *The Carpetbaggers* and *The Tropic of Cancer* as well as *Lady Chatterley's Lover* have all been severely criticized by various law enforcement agencies.

We understand that plain clothes officers are coming into liquor stores and asking retailers if they have read a certain book like *The Carpetbaggers* and no matter if the answer is "yes" or "no" they comment that it is pretty spicy and obscene and will the retailer sell them a copy.

We advise all retailers to refuse to sell if any conversation at all is indulged in by the customer similar to what we have just outlined. If the customer picks up a book or magazine, pays for it and walks out—that's fine. *But if he wants to discuss it—DON'T SELL!!!* And don't order any book or magazine that the customer tells you is spicy and obscene and "you know how it is—something a guy can really get a thrill out of" — **DON'T TAKE THE ORDER. DON'T EVEN DISCUSS IT.**

S. C. Retail Liquor Dealers
Ass'n. Package Stores News.

In Re 'Obscenity'

The Supreme Court on October 15 refused, one justice noting his dissent, to hear contentions that New York prosecutions for the sale of obscene publications should fail for lack of a showing that the booksellers knew the material was obscene and for denial of the right to introduce other works at trial as evidence of "contemporary community standards" Nos. 170 and 175, Finkelstein and Zuker V. N. Y.

According to the October *ACLU News* of San Francisco the U. S. Customs Service has since the beginning of the year seized between fifteen and twenty thousand so-called "Girlie Magazines" imported mainly from Sweden, Denmark, France and England on the claim they are obscene under Section 305 of the Tariff Act. The issue is now pending before U. S. Attorney Cecil Poole to whom the Collector of Customs referred the matter for forfeiture proceedings. Since the addressee refused to assent to destruction of the magazines, the U. S. Attorney must decide whether he will bring so-called libel proceedings in the U. S. District Court asking for forfeiture of the merchandise on obscenity grounds.

Charles Locks, operator of a store which sells magazines and books in PHOENIX, Arizona, was on October 9 found guilty of selling obscene literature by a jury which took less than an hour to return the conviction. When the jurors returned with the verdict, the defense noticed that they had not opened some of their exhibits in sealed plastic covers, and promptly moved for a mistrial. Judge Warren L. McCarthy took the motion under advisement until October 23, the date set for sentencing Locks.

Although the EL CERRITO, California, City Council weighed the matter of sales of "girlie" magazines on September 17, it was wary of the difficulties involved in taking action, and took none. The majority feeling was that legislation was not called for, but that "friendly persuasion" by Mayor D. E. Boblitt directed at the distributors of such magazines would be advisable. Comedian Lenny Bruce was charged in HOLLYWOOD on October 26 with obscenity by a three-man team of law officials — a vice officer, a legal expert and an interpreter. The interpreter was a detective sergeant who speaks Yiddish. Investigators said that part of Bruce's night club act was obscene and that part of it was obscene in Yiddish. Conviction of a LYNWOOD liquor store dealer of selling an obscene book was upheld on September 28 by the California District Court of Appeals. Book in Question: *Danger of Incest*. The apparently ineffective TORRANCE Decent Literature Committee was replaced on October 16 with a Commission for Good Literary Standards and for Juvenile Welfare, a title proposed by Mayor Albert Isen. Several days later His Honor issued an official proclamation designating November as "Stamp Out Smut" month, and police were instructed to continue a program to contact 143 magazine dealers in a drive on pornographic literature. The actions followed a City Council session that saw an estimated 250 placarded women demand action against smutty magazines and books on local newsstands.

Acting on a complaint by the Connecticut CDL, NEW BRITAIN police on September 28 started a drive against pornographic magazines. Special Service squad members toured city newsstands picking up samples for chief prosecutor of Circuit Court 15 Francis J. McVane to read for evidence of obscenity. Squad head Sgt. Ernest Margelot considered the material he picked up as objectionable, but refused to pass on its obscenity. In HARTFORD, CDL president Charles H. Keating, in town for a two-day program against smutty literature, bought and presented to city officials and police a sampling of some 30 magazines and pocket books. Much surprise and indignation was expressed; no action was taken.

President Kennedy was drawn into the censorship arena again in being called upon to veto H.R. 4670, a bill introduced by Rep. James Dowdy (D., Tex.), designed to curb the sale of obscene publications in WASHINGTON, D.C. The veto message said, in part, "Although I am in complete accord with the Congress that the people of the District of Columbia should adequately be protected against the dissemination of indecent and obscene publications and articles, there are grave constitutional and other considerations which have been called to my attention which compel me to withhold my approval of the legislation."

PENSACOLA, Florida City Councilman John Patrick O'Donovan on October 19 demanded that City Council take positive action to control the sale or possession of pornographic literature within the city limits. At a meeting of the Council's Public Safety Committee, O'Donovan said he could bring 1,000 persons to City Hall to show the public is united in his opposition to the type of paper back books and magazines now being sold over counters in Pensacola stores. Without naming the newsstands, the Gainesville *Sun* on October 25 took a local newsdealer to task for stocking obscene literature which resulted in an October 28 *Sun* story that the newsstand had cleaned its own house. The same story carried quotes by the local State Attorney and County Prosecutor that criminal charges will be pressed against anyone who sells pornographic books. "The problem is mainly finding the indecent books." Alachua county sheriff had an idea, and issued a call for residents to help him find them.

Georgia's obscenity law was declared unconstitutional by the State Supreme Court on October 1. The ruling was on a case involving an ATLANTA newsstand, in which two men were indicted for selling and possessing "certain indecent, obscene and immoral pictorial magazines, pamphlets and booklets." The point at issue was that the law excepts radio stations, television stations, moving picture theaters and newspapers

The Lyons Den

CENSORSHIP NOTE: The N. Y. C. public library system is involved in a dispute over Tana de Gamez' first novel, *Like a River of Lions*. It's been banned from the libraries because it contains love scenes deemed objectionable . . . Books like *Tropic of Cancer* and *Peyton Place* have been accepted, Miss de Gamez was told, only because of "the authors' fame and renown."—N.Y. *Post*, 18 October.

from its operation, while subjecting all others to criminal liability. In reversing the lower court's overruling of the defendants' demurrer to dismiss the case, Chief Justice W. H. Duckworth declared the law "is the rank-est sort of discrimination." Rep. Chappell Matthews of Clarke County, one of those who introduced the original bill, said he will introduce a new obscenity law in the Georgia Legislature next January. This would be OK with the Atlanta *Constitution*, which said editorially on October 4: "This newspaper intends to break no sensible obscenity law and sees no reason it should be exempted from one."

University of British Columbia English professor Arnold Edinborough testified in county court in WINNIPEG, Manitoba on October 11 that girlie magazines seized from a downtown newsstand were not objectionable. Girlie magazines, Mr. Edinborough said, were bought by people between 18 and 26 years of age at the rate of 250,000 a month in Canada. They did not shock those who bought them and most of those who didn't buy them didn't even know they existed, he said.

Mr. Edinborough spoke from his experiences as a member of the government-appointed nine-man committee on indecent literature in Ontario. He said the committee had commissioned Dr. Johannes Mohr of the Toronto Psychiatric Hospital to prepare a study on whether or not there was a link between girlie magazines and related publications and the incidence of delinquency. In a 1958 report, Mr. Edinborough said, Dr. Mohr stated he found no such link.

Representative William J. Kingston, on October 10 filed a proposal with the MASSACHUSETTS House of Representatives clerk to have the entire field of obscene literature examined by a special commission with the purpose of strengthening control. The move was made as a result of the Supreme Court decision finding *Tropic of Cancer* not obscene.

A comedy of errors ranging from Washington, D.C. to Chicago, and involving several governmental jurisdictions centered in DETROIT over a dozen or so "girlie" magazine titles. Fracas started when O. R. Maisch, acting chief of the U. S. General Services Administration sent what he later called a "request" to the Michigan Social Welfare Department that certain titles be removed from the newsstands in Federal buildings in Michigan whose blind newsdealers the Department supervises. The Department complied, sending its "request" only to blind newsdealers in Federal buildings, not to similar dealers in state, county, and city buildings. Most of them apparently complied without a fuss, but not Samuel Solomon in the Detroit Federal building. He pointed out, not illogically, that that the magazines in question enjoyed second-class mailing privileges of the U. S. Post Office Department, and had been approved by the Censor Squad of the Detroit Police Department. The story broke on September 7; on September 8 the *Detroit News* reported that authorities in Washington and Chicago had rescinded Maisch's "request."

Detroit's Censor Squad was in the news again on October 3, when patrolman James Brodie charged John Tsoulis with selling and offering for sale obscene pictures contained in magazines. Judge George T. Murphy pressed 18 traffic court jurors — 15 women and 3 men — into service to read the magazines, the three which

Brodie said the prosecutor's office had not approved for sale, and 8 others which had been approved. The jurors found all but one to be obscene. They picked out four as being "most obscene." Of these four, two had been passed by the prosecutor's office, and two had not. "I think they are all obscene," said Judge Murphy, as he convicted Tsoulis and fined him \$50.

The operators of a HIGHLAND PARK, Michigan book store claimed in a suit filed in Federal Court on October 16 that their rights had been violated when Highland Park authorities seized about 425 nudist magazines on September 13, and arrested manager Nasif Soof. "These magazines were openly published and distributed through regular trade sources and the United States mails and in no way comprise 'hard core' pornography" said the attorneys for House of Books.

Members of the LANSING police department were given full support of councilmen October 9 in their efforts to stamp out obscene literature and related materials being sold throughout the city. The council also endorsed a proposal by Capt. Clarissa Young of the juvenile division to establish a review board within the department to scrutinize magazines, pocket book publications, and other materials suspected of having an immoral influence on readers. Members of the city council said they were in full accord with the program and requested the juvenile division head to work with the city attorney to frame an ordinance to enforce the ban.

The First U. S. Court of Appeals on November 1 directed entry of a judgment of acquittal for a New York magazine firm convicted in U. S. District Court at Concord, NEW HAMPSHIRE, last April of sending obscene matter through the mails. The three-judge appeals court set aside the verdict of a jury against Excellent Publications, Inc., publisher of *The Gent*, on the ground that the magazines did not come within the scope of the obscenity statute.

NEW JERSEY Governor Richard J. Hughes on October 19 signed into law two bills dealing with obscene literature. The first establishes a definition of obscenity in line with the U. S. Supreme Court's 1957 decision, and the second gives a county prosecutor or a local chief of police power to seek an injunction to prevent the distribution or sale of obscene literature. The governor vetoed a third bill concerned with tie-in sales as probably unconstitutional and made suggestions for its rewriting.

A controversial ordinance designed to regulate the distribution of pornographic literature as well as commercial and non-commercial handbills was passed (3-2) by the Belleville Town Council on October 22. It requires the licensing of persons engaged in the business of distributing handbills, and also that handbills may not be distributed without the written permission of each and every person to whom they will be sent.

The ALBANY, New York, County grand jury investigation of the distribution and sale of allegedly obscene books apparently stirred District Attorney John T. Garry to do some raiding. On September 6 he, with a search warrant, obtained a ton of magazines from the Hamilton News Company, and the following day confiscated 2,000 magazines from the Carleton News Company. Magazine titles involved were *Playboy* and

Cavalier; books seized were *The Carpetbaggers*, and *Valhalla*.

Pocket Books, Inc. was arraigned on October 15 in Albany County Court on a charge of publishing alleged obscene literature, and was granted a 30-day adjournment for entering a plea. Book in question: *The Carpetbaggers*. The decent literature committee of the Dads Club of St. Clare's R. C. Church in GREAT KILLS will visit stores in the area requesting that salacious literature be kept off the shelves. Stores are to be visited once a month, and will be issued new signs indicating compliance every three months.

NASSAU County Vice Squad detectives inspected more than 50 newsstands throughout the county on October 1 in the first day of a week-long campaign by DA William Cahn to seek cooperation on restricting the display and sale of "girlie" magazines. Cahn, who personally directed the inspection, said he was happy with the cooperation he is getting. And yet, four days later he is shown in the Garden City *Newsday* conferring with State Senator Henry M. Curran, vice-chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Obscene Literature, and quoted as proposing changes in the state laws to give him stronger weapons to fight the sale of "girlie" magazines. Hardly a coincidence, the *Long Island Press* reported that one Charles H. Keating, Jr. spoke at a rally in Garden City, blasting the "floodtide of filth that has saturated magazine racks throughout the country."

Charges of displaying and selling lewd reading material filed on July 27 against officials of two Kenwood Plaza, HAMILTON COUNTY, Ohio, also involving *The Carpetbaggers*, were dismissed on October 2 by County Court Judge Gilday, who noted that the law requires a person to know literature is obscene before he can be convicted and that retailers handling thousands of items cannot be expected to know what is in each book. On the same day Judge Gilday fined an Anderson township man \$500 after he pleaded guilty of possessing obscene photographs and equipment to reproduce them.

The PORTLAND, Oregon Retail Druggist Assn. has pledged full cooperation with Mayor Terry D. Schrunck in his war on "smutty" literature. The group, representing a majority of the city's druggists, on September 29 approved a resolution "to cooperate fully with the mayor and his decent-literature committee in refusing to accept obscene magazines from our wholesale distributors and by not allowing them on our news stands."

On September 12 the PORT ARTHUR, Texas city commission amended its ordinance dealing with the sale and display of obscene material to provide that

Author Robert Ruark Barred From Kenya

The Kenya Government announced on September 18 that American novelist Robert Ruark has been declared a prohibited immigrant. The Defense Ministry spokesman declined to give a specific reason, but it was apparent that Ruark's latest novel, *Uhuru*, prompted the action. The book, however, was not banned, as it had been last June by the South African government.

the chief of police could notify the retailers to remove the objectionable material from their shelves and if they refused he could file a complaint with the district attorney. His amendment was adopted. Previously the ordinance allowed the retailer three days to remove the material. The city's board of censors still determines what is obscene and makes the recommendations to the chief of police under the ordinance.

In WICHITA FALLS County attorney Donald E. Short filed suit for an injunction against Junius J. Thomas for having in his possession and offering for sale various magazines, books, pictures, photographs, figures and articles alleged to be obscene and prohibited from possession or sale by the Texas penal code. Suit was filed on October 22, and a hearing is set for November 7.

Life in the Tropics

Bookseller Bradley R. Smith's appeal of his conviction for selling *Tropic of Cancer* was turned down on October 24 by the appellate department of the LOS ANGELES Superior Court. In his written opinion, Superior Court Judge Harold P. Huls said that "the entire book is obscene to the average person applying contemporary standards." The case now goes to the District Court of Appeals.

When INDIANAPOLIS prosecutor Phillip L. Bayt bought copies of the two *Tropics*, read them over a week-end, and then threatened store manager Keith Cuffel with prosecution if they were not removed from sale, he very likely did not bargain for a debate with the sales manager of a nationally known publishing house. William J. Finneran, of Bobbs-Merrill, incensed, among other reasons, that Bayt should have picked on a small store when the books were being sold by larger book stores and department stores, promptly challenged Bayt to literary debate in which the latter could tell the public how many other books he had read in the past year. The challenge has apparently gone unanswered, but on October 23 prosecutor Bayt asked for grand jury action to keep the *Tropics* off the shelves of the city's bookstores. By the 27th he took to writing a letter to the editor of the *Star* to make the connection between obscene literature and sex crime by quoting from the writings of one J. Edgar Hoover.

A procession of experts offered sharply contradictory testimony on October 29 in MONTGOMERY County, Maryland, Circuit Court on the question of whether *Tropic of Cancer* is obscene by contemporary standards. The battle of the experts marked the opening of a second hearing on a suit by Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Levine to restore the book to public library shelves in the county library. County Librarian George Moreland apparently couldn't care less, for he is quoted in the Washington *Star* as saying, "I have wiped the same words from the walls of the men's room of the Silver Spring library that are in that book."

A BROOKLYN judge on November 1 ordered the arrest of Henry Miller, who failed to appear to answer criminal charges of obscenity in his novel *Tropic of Cancer*. The charge carries a maximum sentence of three years in jail. Court attaches and Miller's publisher did not know his whereabouts. The publisher, Barney Rosset, president of Grove Press, pleaded not

guilty to the charge of printing the allegedly obscene book, and several local news companies entered similar pleas to the charge of distributing it.

The manager and the office manager of the Economy Book Store in SYRACUSE were fined \$150 each on September 10 for having sold Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer*. A \$150 fine against a third employee of the store, a clerk, was suspended. The three booksellers, John Armstrong, Allan Hammerle and Marguerite Fritch, were convicted by a six-member police court jury on August 13. The jury, after almost four hours of deliberation, ruled that *Tropic of Cancer* was an obscene book. The \$150 fines were the minimum punishment called for under the statute making the sale of obscene literature a misdemeanor.

Claiming the court committed more than a dozen errors during the trial, the three bookstore employees on September 19 appealed their convictions to County Court. The move drew the editorial support of the Syracuse *Herald-American* in these down-to-earth words: "Those store owners, managers, clerks and office employees who handle a commodity labeled books rather than a commodity known as shoes, must render judgments about the obscenity content of their merchandise before they sell it. If they sold shoes under like circumstances, each pair of shoes would have to be worn, we presume, before being sold to the public."

Who Reads *Tropic*? Or, What Happens When You Leave It Alone

What happens when *Tropic of Cancer* is placed, without fanfare, on the open shelves of a public library? Is there a special pattern of circulation? How does the community react? Some answers to such questions have turned up in a survey at the Salina, Kansas Public Library.

Salina is a city of 45,000 people, trade center for a wide region in the geographical center of the continental United States. The population is predominantly native born, Anglo-Saxon, in a middle class economic environment. Education levels are high. The major atypical influence is the presence of Atlas missile sites and a Strategic Air Command aerospace base. This injects into the community a more cosmopolitan group, including a higher proportion of younger people, and a larger number of people with college and advanced degrees than would normally be present.

Two copies of *Tropic* were added to the collection in the normal acquisition routine, and the books were placed on the open shelves in the adult reading room. There has been no local controversy about the book, so readers with prior knowledge of the book would have obtained such information from national coverage.

The library uses the hand charging system, with both a card number file and a borrower's card file. Collectively, the circulation staff members know nearly every patron, so that quite accurate information could be compiled on age and occupation of the readers.

To obtain a timely survey of *Tropic's* readership, the librarian utilized the first one hundred circulations as a sample. *Tropic* is in constant and active circulation, although no patron has summoned up enough courage to leave a reserve request. Returned copies seldom spend more than several hours on the shelf. Not one reader has volunteered his comment on the book when returning a copy.

Tropic's male readers outnumber the women 59 to 41. Reader-age relationship follows the age distribution of the community, with exception of the younger and older groups: twelve readers were under 20; 38 were between 20 and 30 years; 38 were between 30 and 50; and twelve were over 50. Five of the readers under twenty years were high school students, the balance were students at local colleges.

Local male readers seem to be more provincial than the women — over 50 per cent of the men were associated with the Air Force and missile bases, while only eight per cent of the women worked at the bases were married to base workers. Following the base personnel in the male readership were office and retail workers, 20 per cent; teachers, 10 per cent; with the remainder spread through a variety of occupations. Only one professional man checked out the book, and no laborer was among the readers.

Housewives constituted 58 per cent of the women readers, with the majority of their husbands employed in local retail and sales occupations. Women students accounted for 18 per cent; office workers for 15 per cent, and teachers for 9 per cent.

Perhaps the only real conclusion which may be made from the survey is that, if no local controversy becomes involved, a book such as *Tropic* will have pretty much the same pattern of circulation as that of any other widely read book. —Richard J. Neuman

Movie Critic Speaks Out

Movies and Censorship. By Bosley Crowther. New York: Public Affairs Pamphlets, 1962. 28 p. 25 cents.

This slim pamphlet provides a fresh, sweeping view of the changing practices of movie censorship in the United States, as seen by an active motion picture critic of the *New York Times* and author of two books on Hollywood. Although the accent is on the present, Mr. Crowther sketches in the history of local and state censorship boards, motion picture codes, private censorship groups and various court decisions.

Today's "liberalization" of movie-making standards is related to the changing structure of the industry, the competition of TV and foreign films and changing community standards. The Supreme Court's recent pronouncements tend to place motion pictures in the area of the press: under the protection of the First Amendment. However, the Court has not yet moved to strike down all prior censorship, though it does maintain a liberal interpretation regarding obscenity, and affords court remedy to films running afoul of local censorship laws.

For parents and others generally worried about "standards" in current films — particularly as these affect minors — the author makes a serious effort at evaluating proposed remedies. "Advisory" classification and "compulsory" classification schemes are studied as

Back Issues

Copies of many back issues are available from the editor at fifty cents per copy. A complete file, or any portion thereof, is also available on microfilm or Xerox Copyflo. Write Donald V. Black at the University of California Library, Los Angeles 24, for quotations.

methods to grade pictures for various age levels. While accepting additional sources of information to influence individual decisions on guiding children's movie-going behavior, Crowther shows the problems of any system of classification. He adduces the British system here, showing that it has neither solved the problem, nor avoided inconsistencies and bloopers.

The author is clearly against movie censorship as practiced and contemplated in the United States. (I won't burn my fingers by saying that he's against all regulation of movies, or attempt to predict what his own unstated policy might be.) He makes a persuasive plea for more freedom, and his words are strengthened by numerous forceful drawings by Dick Shelton.

The only two minor criticisms that I would enter are: 1) Crowther generally does not handle the self-censorship practiced by producers in terms of themes or choices of treatment; and 2) He omits any bibliography — which handicaps those who want to read further, following his excellent presentation. But for a lively treatment in 28 pages, it would be hard to top this performance.— Charles Shain

We Knew About Children, But . . .

Responding to a private complaint, the ACLU's National Capital Area affiliate recently asked the District of Columbia Board of Commissioners to stop censorship of incoming and outgoing mail at the Welfare Department's "D. C. Village" for the aged.

Official justification was that the practice was meant to preserve "pleasant relationships" between inmates and their families. The NCACLU charged that this smacked of scenes in George Orwell's *1984*.

Chairman Tobriner of the Board of Commissioners said he was "shocked" to learn of the mail inspection, and the Board has since ordered that all such censorship at D. C. Village be ended.

Two Answers on Policy

I.

The question you raise in the October issue certainly deserves an answer. Your question concerned my editorial about *Race and Reason* in which I state that, "The Arlington Library officials were duty bound to add the book to the library after demand was assured." You then state further on that, "If the facts are the same, if a book is inaccurate, and the evaluation was properly made, is it reasonable or proper for that library to add the book on the basis of demand alone?" I am not sure that I can divorce the statement I made from the particular issue, namely *Race and Reason*. I am not sure that I would make a statement of that sort in general without reference to some specific book. However, I think that a great deal depends on the definition of the word "demand" as a noun. Is "demand" the undisciplined clamor of a virtually illiterate mob, or is "demand" the reasonable request of an intelligent group who are seeking further enlightenment? First of all, *Race and Reason* is not a work of popular fiction (whatever librarians may think of its factual basis).

At least author Putnam did not intend his book to be fictional in nature. And does lack of accuracy alone serve as the basis for rejection of a book? When a writing becomes controversial, accurate or not, it should be available to those who wish to study it for one purpose or another. Certainly no one in an academic library would presume to refuse the request of a professor for a book which the librarian knew contained inaccuracies. The librarian might point out to the professor that the work in question contained inaccuracies, but certainly I cannot conceive of an outright refusal of a request of this nature, no matter what the book might be. Thus, if a citizen requests of a public library that it add a certain book to its collection, inaccuracy of the book alone is not reason enough to refuse the request. Actually I do not believe that moral standards, factual accuracy, or relevance to a library's collection are any one a prime criterion for the selection or rejection of a book. I believe that use, or usefulness, is the only valid criterion.—Donald V. Black

II.

Anent "A Question of Policy," your point about purchasing books after demand is a good one. It goes back to the old question of the librarian's role as follower or leader. Is he a pollster or molder of public opinion? As an educator, he must indeed take the initiative in disseminating ideas. As the Reading for an Age of Change discussion team at Miami Beach revealed, in order to create freedom of the mind, the librarian must have freedom of the mind, and not be too easily influenced by community opinion.—Florence Boochever.

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