



## newsletter

# ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

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## Fairfax County Library Battles Censorship on All Fronts

The Fairfax County, Virginia, Public Library on April 25th rescheduled for May 6 the showing of a documentary film on modern Japan after the April 23rd showing had been canceled as a result of a protest by American Legion Post 177 Commander George J. O'Sullivan, whose protest is based on American Legion literature (*The Firing Line*) that links producer Julien Bryan with several allegedly subversive groups during the 1930s.

Library Director Mary K. McCulloch rescheduled the film after "we postponed the film to prove our point that it was all right." She quoted from the late Representative J. Parnell Thomas, who as Chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1947, said, "I just want to say for the record that we have not got anything in our files to prove that Julien Bryan is a Communist." Bryan, a Legion member since World War I, also has denied the charges. Also questioned by O'Sullivan was the showing of Bryan's "Picture in Your Mind," a commentary on race relations, that was shown at a branch library on April 29, and "The Brotherhood of Man," a cartoon adapted from the book, *The Races of Man*, by distinguished anthropologists Ruth Benedict and Gene Weltfish.

After 65 Legion members and others saw the three films in a private showing on April 28, the tenth district of the Legion renewed its demand that the Fairfax County Public Library cancel showings of all three films. More than 70 (presumably other) people attended the showing of "Picture in Your Mind" on April 29, most of whom came to protest the Legion stand.

The flap showed some signs of extending to books, to library personnel, and to the library's May budget hearings, but the Board of Trustees issued a statement confirming that the films would be shown, a member of the board of supervisors spoke of no relevance to the budget, and phone calls were running 150 to 3 in favor of the library. Congressman Joel T. Broyhill entered the lists on May 1 by reading into the *Congressional Record* (p. 7087-89) much data on both Weltfish and Bryan obtained from the files of the HUAC. Said Broyhill, "I have presented this material as a service to the American Legion and all citizens who have taken an interest in this public controversy in order that they might have full information to guide their future actions." Although he had not seen the films, he was "compelled to add that the long record of Communist activities on the part of these film producers makes it impossible for me to believe other than the films were

made as Communist propaganda vehicles." Asked whether his remarks would have any effect on the library's decision to show the film, Librarian McCulloch said, "I can only speak for myself at this moment. I would say 'no'."

Her "no" apparently stood, but on May 16 Atty. Paul Peachey filed suit asking the Fairfax Circuit Court to issue an order, under Virginia's obscenity statute, barring "sale or distribution" of these four books circulated by the county public library: *Without Magnolias*, by Bucklin Moon; *A Month Soon Goes*, by Storm Jameson; *Color Blind*, by Margaret Halsey; and *Big Sky*, by A. B. Guthrie, Jr. Earlier in the week Margaret Plattner presented excerpts from the four books, which she described as "filthy," to the Board of County Supervisors' budget hearing. Peachey included Plattner's excerpts in his suit.

Peachey's suit was dismissed on May 20 by County Circuit Judge Albert V. Bryan, who said that Virginia's obscenity statute expressly exempts public libraries from its application, and that the suit failed to show that the books were sold or distributed elsewhere. Not quite daunted, Peachey asked the court to issue an order barring sale or distribution of the two books he really considers obscene, those by Jameson and Guthrie plus Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*. Judge Bryan promised to read the books at his earliest convenience. A week later, on May 28, Bryan dismissed the suit on the ground that the books are not obscene as defined by Virginia law.

Still not completely daunted, Peachey sponsored a contest among county high school students, and offered a \$500 first prize for the best essay on one of five questions of his choosing. Sample question: "What should local political leaders do about obscene matter in public libraries?" When the public schools declined to help sponsor or administer the contest, he took a full-page ad in a local paper.

## UC Regents Lift Ban on Reds' Talks

The University of California's controversial ban on campus speeches by Communists was rescinded by a 15 to 2 vote of the Board of Regents on June 21. The new policy permits anyone to speak on any of the university's nine campuses—with the provision that the chancellor may, if he "considers it appropriate," require any or all of the following:

"1—That the meeting be chaired by a tenure member of the faculty;

"2—That the speaker be subject to questions from the audience;

"3—That the speaker be appropriately balanced in debate with a person with contrary opinion."

## "A Dictionary of American Slang"

Coming belatedly to the defense of Assemblyman E. Richard Barnes, who had gotten a Sacramento High School student into trouble over the book, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Max Rafferty on May 23rd said that the book's title ought to be "A Dictionary of American Slang and Obscenity," and that it contains information "completely unsuitable for the children of California. I would certainly recommend that any schools that have secured copies of this book try to take them off as quickly as possible." Assembly Speaker Jesse Unruh promptly rose to the challenge at a news conference to say that he was "not so greatly concerned with this particular book as whether if it's the first or the last book Dr. Rafferty will want removed." Rafferty's statement included several other bits of evidence of the tendency toward censorship, including the following: "If we have to have *Tropic of Cancer* and *Lady Chatterly's Lover* on the shelves of junior and senior high schools in this State simply to prove that we're not censoring, then I think we'd better do a little censoring." When asked whether either of the latter books were actually in any high school library in the state, Rafferty replied, "Not that I know of."

Rafferty's boss, the State Board of Education, which just happened to be in session in Los Angeles, promptly and unanimously passed a censoring resolution, which said, in part, "Books in public schools should continue to be chosen by local school district librarians, teachers, principals and superintendents with the purpose of satisfying the needs of the serious student and the inquiring mind. Any pressure to restrict their choice should be resisted whether it comes from local groups espousing a particular point of view or from public officials."

The executive board of the California Association of Teachers of English, meeting in Sacramento, promptly endorsed the State Board's resolution in a statement which said, in part, "The board affirms the basic right of students to read and be informed, and the responsibility of professional librarians and teachers to interpret and safeguard that right."

One report of actual proscription of the dictionary came from the Sweetwater Union High School District, where it had been removed from the Mar Vista High School library in Imperial Beach two months previously by principal Myron Smull, after which superintendent Joseph Rindone issued the same order for all schools.

The president of the California Federation of Women's Clubs, Mrs. Merritt R. Hosmer, announced on June 7 that a resolution condemning the dictionary would go to 61,000 members who will be asked to demand its removal from schools. The resolution urges parents to "rise against the contamination of young impressionable minds by exposure to such materials."

The dictionary came under renewed attack on June 12, when a group of private citizens converged on the Capitol in Sacramento, demanding removal of the book from elementary and high schools and the removal of State Board of Education chairman Thomas W. Braden. The protestors planned to camp in every legislator's

office. "This is not censorship. This is common sense," said Millbrae spokesman Hugh Smith.

The Newport Beach city council, asked on June 10 by Mrs. Alan Anderson to withhold the city library's \$155,000 budget because a copy of the *Dictionary of American Slang* was on the shelves, commended city manager Robert Coop after learning Coop had ordered the library's copy removed a week previously. Coop apparently initiated review of the book by city librarian Dorothea Sheely, who reported it unfit for circulation and turned it over to the police department as a reference work. The move was promptly challenged by the Orange County ACLU. It was challenged also by Library Board chairman Leon Ware, who thought the Board should have been consulted. The Board thought so too, and on June 18 returned it to the restricted reference shelf by a 3-1 vote. On the same day the Costa Mesa city council debated the book and voted 4-1 to ask the Board of Supervisors to ban the book from Orange County library shelves. The book was stoutly defended by councilman Joseph Tomchak, who turned his attack on a pink pamphlet containing excerpts from the dictionary which is being circulated anonymously by an unidentified organization.

By June 19 five-page lists of slang sexual definitions drawn from the dictionary were being widely circulated in Sacramento by groups seeking to bar it from school libraries by legislative action during the closing days of an already hectic session. The campaign also included renewed demands for the ouster of State Board of Education chairman Braden. Protesting groups, which seem to be *ad hoc*, except for the California Federation of Republican Women, caravanned to Sacramento from as far away as Fresno. Spokesman for the Millbrae citizens group, William O'Leary, conceded the possibility that some of the 10,000 copies of excerpts already distributed—objective 100,000—might get into the hands of children, and added, "It is unfortunate that these excerpts have to go out, but the occasion demands it."

After a month of controversy about having the book in school libraries in Butte County to the north—not resolved at press time—the dictionary came to rest in the county librarian's office, by this minute of the June 18 meeting of the Board of Supervisors:

Ursula Meyer, county librarian, appeared as requested by Supervisor Giles to discuss the book *Dictionary of American Slang*, which is in the county library. Miss Meyer explained the purpose of the book, stating that the dictionary had been purchased in 1960 and had been on the shelves ever since September, 1960. Miss Meyer was requested to remove the book from the reference desk and keep it in her private office, not to be used unless requested by a serious minded adult person for reference use only.

Writes Ursula Meyer: Under the circumstances I feel the Board of Supervisors' decision to place the book in my office for the use of adults is satisfactory. It is still available to adults. The book has been such a "hot issue" that reason seems to have no place in its existence at the moment. I feel this is not the end of the affair—it will be an issue for some time to come.

## Library Association (London) Statement of Policy

"The function of a library service is to provide, so far as resources allow, all books, periodicals, etc., other than the trivial, in which its readers claim legitimate interest. In determining what is a legitimate interest the librarian can safely rely upon one guide only—the law of the land. If the publication of such matter has not incurred penalties under the law it should not be excluded from libraries on any moral, political, religious or racial ground alone, to satisfy any sectional interest.

"The public is entitled to rely upon libraries for access to information and enlightenment upon every field of human experience and activity. Those who provide library services should not restrict this access except by standards which are endorsed by law."—A statement adopted by the British Library Association Council, published in *Library Association Record*, May 1963, page 31.

### Dictionary of American Slang

The above book, compiled and edited by Harold Wentworth and Stuart Berg Flexner, is a Crowell Reference and may be found in many high school libraries, public libraries and bookstores. We wished to alert you by quoting some of the shocking sexual and homosexual definitions, the terms to use in acquiring narcotics, the defamatory names for minority, ethnic groups and the anti-religious definitions. However, an attorney warned us that most of the definitions are too obscene to send through the mail. One of the least obscene definitions will give you an idea of the contents of this book. After defining "Holy Cow", as a euphemism for "Holy Christ", the editor adds "Although this term is considered to be very popular among teenagers, *no self respecting, red blooded teenager would dare use such a weak oath.*" Unfortunately, many newspapers, columnists, librarians, teachers and public officials condone this book which has been described as "a practicing handbook of sexual perversion" and the California Board of Education has refused to remove it from school libraries. We believe we represent devoted mothers, fathers, children, dedicated law enforcement officers, the American home and decency in urging the following action.

**ACTION:** If the Dictionary of American Slang is in your public or school libraries, demand to see it; copy some of the definitions and insist that your School Board and members of your Library Board read these definitions. Alert the editors of your local newspapers, your civic groups, your PTA and other parent groups. Insist that this destructive book be destroyed. You may be accused of "book burning" and suppressing freedom of the Press, but you will be conducting a necessary fight against obscenity. Remember, a Republic cannot survive if its people do not keep informed and express their will for high moral standards.—*Network of Patriotic Letter Writers*, June.

## The Last Temptation of Christ

### I. The News

Bantam Books, publishers of the paper edition of *The Last Temptation of Christ* reported in the *Long Island Press* on April 18 that sales, under par until about four months ago, have quadrupled since the protests began. Trade edition publisher Simon and Schuster, in reporting no effect, said that 24,000 copies have been sold, which places the book in the best-seller class. Both paper sales and library protests have been jumping since publication of an adverse editorial in *The Wanderer*, a Minneapolis weekly published by a Roman Catholic Family. Nassau Library Association reported that 26 member libraries have copies on their shelves. In addition to specific reports below, the book has come into question in these Long Island communities: Freeport, Massapequa, Rockville Centre. The *Press* reported that nationwide protests have come chiefly from Catholic churches and the John Birch Society.

In connection with announcing on April 23rd that the Arcadia, CALIFORNIA, Library Board may make a decision at its May meeting on the question of placing *The Last Temptation of Christ* on a "closed shelf," Librarian Homer Fletcher also reported the results of an informal survey of the "closed shelf" policies of 47 other California public libraries. He found that 28 of the 47 have some books which are not available to children under 18 except with parental consent. To the question, "Do you feel that to separate controversial books from others fulfills the public library's role in allowing access to freedom of ideas?" Thirty librarians answered in the negative and six in the affirmative. Of the latter six, two indicated that their only reason was to protect the controversial books from theft or mutilation. Fletcher found that 15 of the 47 libraries reported segregating controversial books. Of these, 5 said they made the distinction only to protect the books.

The Farmingdale, NEW YORK, library board on April 16 heard 75 persons hotly debate whether 10 copies of *The Last Temptation of Christ* should be removed from the shelves. The board took no action, but an informal poll revealed four of the five members to be against the ban. The book became an election issue on April 24, when incumbent trustee Pricilla Griffith favored keeping the book and endorsed ALA's freedom-to-read policy. Birch Society member candidate Edward H. Werner denounced the book as obscene and blasphemous and vowed to fight to ban it if elected. In Massapequa, the library board on May 7 rejected a citizens' request to remove the book. We told them, said chairman George L. Goss, "that board members had decided after reading and discussing the book to uphold the ALA bill of rights calling for a freedom-to-read policy."

The Ashland, WISCONSIN, library board reported on April 22 that *The Last Temptation of Christ* was removed from circulation only "until it could be evaluated on its merits," after which it was returned to the shelves.

### II. The Editorial (1)

Going on the theory that the best defense is a good offense, the London, Ontario, Public Library and Art Museum wins the NOIF KUDO of the month for its four-page flyer on Nikos Kazantzakis, who is identified on page 1 as the Cretan Author, and contains a bio-

graphical note, a list of his books with brief annotations, and an invitation to attend a public discussion of his work. In addition to stating that the six books are all available in the Library, the annotations mention the trade and paper editions currently available. The biographical note is here quoted in full:

*Nikos Kazantzakis*, the Cretan author, was almost completely unknown in the English-speaking world until very recently. As translations of his work become available, his reputation grows among English-speaking people to match its stature in Europe. Kazantzakis was repeatedly nominated for the Nobel Prize, but did not win. In one year's voting he lost by a single vote. Among his nominators and champions were Thomas Mann and Albert Schweitzer. Kazantzakis' work is extremely controversial. A man of power and passion and great spiritual intensity, his highly personal views on religion and philosophy are very unorthodox. The reviews of his books range violently to both extremes. He was excommunicated from the Greek Orthodox Church. At least one of his books has been placed on the Roman Catholic Index. At the other extreme, many critics and literary people rate him as one of the greatest writers of the twentieth century. Many influences are easily detectable in his work, especially those of Bergson, his teacher, Nietzsche, the Buddha, and the theory of evolution. But one main theme is the key to all his writings, the bitter, never-ending struggle between flesh and spirit.

### III. The Editorial (2)

Since early in April, 1963, the Farmingdale Public Library Board of Trustees have been receiving criticism and praise for having on the library shelves, copies of Nikos Kazantzakis' novel, "*Last Temptation of Christ*." These comments received thorough study by the Trustees and the staff.

Ten copies of this book were purchased in September, 1960. It was reviewed very favorably at the time of publication in standard book review tools which libraries use. The *Library Journal*, one of the finest professional publications, recommended it as "an important and meaningful novel."

In 1961, when a retrospective report was made of the novels published during 1960, this Kazantzakis item was cited as "most highly recommended" by a consultant group of librarians from throughout the United States. This is a high distinction since only 41 of the more than 1,000 fiction titles issued that year received this citation.

Undoubtedly the single most important work activity of the professional staff at our library is the selection of books for Farmingdale residents. This work receives serious and consistent attention. Schools of library science stress in their training program and courses, the selection of books for adults, young adults and children in all fields of human knowledge. All Professional Librarians on the Farmingdale Public Library Staff have advanced college work at the Graduate level in these courses and in addition, have many years of experience in a broad spectrum of library service.

No complaints were received on this novel in the more than 2½ years it has been in Farmingdale until these past few weeks. Some people have now asked for the removal of this book from the shelves on grounds that it is indecent, obscene and blasphemous. The Trus-

tees have considered carefully these complaints received both in writing and verbally. We find these charges to be without basis in fact.

Furthermore, and this is the prime consideration, we find no grounds whatsoever for removal of this book from the collection. The issue is not a religious one nor a question of whether or not you like the book. The issue is whether in the United States of America a group may demand and achieve the removal of a book because they object to it.

We feel that the best interests of all can only be served by the availability in our public library collection of the widest possible diversity of responsible views and expressions. This book, "*Last Temptation of Christ*" will remain available for general use in the Farmingdale Public Library.—Farmingdale, New York, Public Library Board of Trustees unanimously adopted statement in response to request for removal of Nikos Kazantzakis' novel from the collection. June 11, 1963.

### IV. Letter to the Editor

We have a very excellent recording of a review of Kazantzakis' "*The Last Temptation of Christ*" which I thought you might want to consider mentioning in the next issue of the *Intellectual Freedom Newsletter*, since the attack on the book seems to be spreading east. We would be so very glad to lend this to any libraries who felt that it might help their particular crisis. It is a recording of a talk which Reverend Hangen, Congregational minister, presented to a group in his church. He gives a bit of the background of the Long Beach incident, reads a very excellent statement prepared by the Board of the Council of Churches and presented in the City Council meeting, upholding the Library's position. Reverend Hangen also makes his own personal plea against such censorship in a very fine way.—Blanche Collins, Long Beach Public Library.

### Vicissitudes of "Eros"

A Manhattan grand jury on May 4 reported it was unable to find any violation of statutes against pornography in *Eros*. One of the magazine's illustrations cited before the grand jury as obscene turned out to be poor evidence for the state's case when its creator was revealed to be none other than Rembrandt. Editor and publisher Ralph Guinzburg hailed the action as "an important contribution toward protecting freedom of expression of sex in art and literature." Meanwhile associate publisher Frank R. Brady enlisted the support of California subscribers in protesting the refusal of the San Francisco *Chronicle* Sunday book section to continue to accept *Eros* advertising.

In Philadelphia, on May 8, Ralph Guinzburg pleaded innocent in U. S. District Court on a 28-count indictment of distributing obscene literature (including *Eros*) through the mails. Trial began on June 10 and on June 14 Mr. Guinzburg was found guilty by Judge Ralph C. Body on all 28 counts. Convicted also were Documentary Books, Inc., and *Liaison Newsletter*. Guinzburg plans to appeal the decision.

In Boston on May 10 Attorney General Edward W. Brooke announced a civil action charging obscenity will be brought against *Eros* in an *in rem* proceeding. Via the June 1 *Library Journal* came word that *Eros* had been removed from the University of Wisconsin Library, apparently by librarian Kaplan.

## School Problems—Mostly with “Catcher”

Two lame-duck members of the Barstow, CALIFORNIA, school board on April 25 objected to the rehiring of two junior college teachers who wanted to use *Catcher in the Rye* in their classes on a permissive basis. That move failed, but the ruckus revealed that the book had been banned. Superintendent James L. Prince explained that he had not censored use of the book. He said it had been submitted on the college list and he had suggested another book (unnamed) be substituted for it. This suggestion had been acceded to by the college.

The head of the Fresno State College English department refused on May 20 to knuckle under to parents' complaints that *Catcher in the Rye* is too racy for class room study. In doing so, Dr. Earl D. Lyon balked also at the following suggestions of College Prexy Arnold E. Joyal: “I have not read the book myself, so I don't suppose I am entitled to an opinion. However, I still think there must be some other equally good or approximately equal good books which could serve the same purpose without provoking the type of reactions which are characteristic of the most recent series of complaints.”

In Newport Beach the State Board of Education announced on May 25 it would ask the attorney general to rule whether Darwin's theory of evolution should be taught as fact in tax-supported schools. Decision followed a 90-minute LA meeting in which Mrs. Nell Seagraves and Mrs. Jean Sumrall, both of Costa Mesa, argued, “Since the teaching of God is unconstitutional in tax-supported schools, the teaching of the absence of God also is unconstitutional with respect to the protection of the religious liberties of the Christian child.” The women presented the state board with 13 biology and history textbooks used in Orange County high schools and two science textbooks used in county elementary schools which they claim teaches that Darwin's theory of evolution is fact.

The Santa Ana school board on May 6 told objecting parents that they are studying a textbook called *Critical Thinking in Reading and Writing*, which has been withdrawn on charges it makes the Communist line “look logical” in some places.

A majority report of its education subcommittee guided the Hamden, CONNECTICUT, school board in its 5-2 May 21 decision not to intervene in the selection of books for school use. Three particular books in question were *Catcher in the Rye*, *J.B.*, and *Barabbas*. The thoughtfully written report was printed in full by the *New Haven Register* on May 22.

The Levittown, NEW YORK, school board on April 23 voted 5 to 2 to ban Emil Lengyel's *Subcontinent of India* on the ground that the author had been a member of several subversive groups. The book had been in use as a text in ninth grade citizenship classes. The vote climaxed a stormy five-hour meeting, at which 200 were in attendance, and at which the author acknowledged that he had once been a member of some of the 24 organizations named by trustee Joseph Waldvogel as being subversive. In addition to formidable student opposition to the ban, formal opposition has been voiced by the Levittown Teachers Association, the Empire State Federation of Teachers, and the New York Civil Liberties Union. Censorship was a major

## UNESCO Books Should be Kept Out Of American Schools

UNESCO is now putting out a series of volumes called *A SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANKIND*. This work is co-authored by Communists, pro-Communists and atheists. Four of the atheistic editors are Ralph E. Turner, Julian Huxley, A. L. Kroeber and Bertrand Russell. Paperback editions are planned for all American schools. Indeed, the United States government is considering making the entire American educational system conform to UNESCO. It is planned to enforce this on every member country. . . . No one in either the American or British government has had the courage to oppose this. . . . The result would be that all children would be taught in precise conformity. No one does anything about this because 99% of the public is completely unaware of it. If they were made aware, this scheme would be defeated.

(Reference: Intelligence Digest 4-26-63, Kenneth deCoursey, North Cerney House, Cirencester, England.)

**ACTION:** Bring these facts to the attention of every parent within reach. Obtain a list of officers and directors of UNESCO, which are mainly from Communist countries, and present it to your local School Board, PTA, and teachers. The reasons for avoiding UNESCO literature should be very obvious to all.—*Network of Patriotic Letter Writers*, June.

issue in the May 8 school board election in which Waldvogel was defeated and anti-censorship trustee Eli Mellan was re-elected.

It was announced on May 16 that the Nassau VFW would present Americanism awards to Rovert Hoshino, school board president, and to Joseph Waldvogel for their part in alerting their community in the “book censorship controversy.” Which on May 17 created a new controversy within the VFW as to who had the right to give which awards to whom. Past county commander and current council legislative chairman seemed to have the last words: “The VFW has never supported any book-banning program on the county, state or national level.”

Sparked by the flap in Phoenixville over *Catcher in the Rye* (May, p. 40), the Pottstown, PENNSYLVANIA, *Mercury* on April 26 revealed that the local high school library didn't have it on the shelves for free circulation. “But, ironically, it is for sale in the paperback version in the same school library.” Other books not available are *Grapes of Wrath*, and the novels of Hemingway and Faulkner. “When you use taxpayers' money,” explained high school librarian Eleanor Cornmesser, “you must be cautious in the books you select. You always have a few people who frown on these books.” Books are selected on the recommendation of English teachers, but Miss Cornmesser does not have to follow them. There was no request for *Grapes of Wrath*, but the request for *Catcher in the Rye* was disregarded. Miss Cornmesser has complete authority to select or disregard books. “She is the final judge,” said Superintendent Havard Fosnocht.

Phoenixville was also responsible for the revelation that the Salinger novel had been banned from the school store in Philadelphia's prestigious Central High last spring as the result of the protest of one English teacher, and over the objections of all the others. Book was not removed from the school library, nor was its use in the school banned. But it still cannot be purchased at the all-boys high school store. William H. Gregory, Central High's new principal, as of May 19 had not been asked to lift the ban; if and when he is, he said he would meet with the English faculty to discuss the matter. "We have to have a kind of censorship; otherwise parents will accuse the schools of not upholding high moral standards."

Houston's Sam Houston High's principal William Powell, annoyed with his faculty's split over his banning of e.e. cummings's *Poems 1923-54*, called segregated (by sex) teachers meetings to hear some of the poems read—by Powell to the men and by Dean Mrs. Fannie Whitmore to the women. Said Powell, "I read one poem (sorry, no data), and the group immediately voted unanimously that the book should not be returned to the library." Mrs. Whitmore had a similar experience.

Washington area radio evangelist Dale Crowley on May 15 called for the resignation of Falls Church, VIRGINIA, school superintendent Irvin H. Schmitt and George Mason High School principal George W. Cox for permitting students to read *Catcher in the Rye*. Specifically at issue was their refusal to dismiss foreign exchange teacher Margaret Butler. All three were promptly defended by school board chairman J. Roger Wollenberg in ringing words not a little evangelical in their own right: "I cannot condone the intolerant suggestion that professional educators who do not subscribe to the views of a particular critic should be summarily dismissed. This surely would be the end of our educational system. It would indeed be the end of the search for truth."

## Fourth Estate

The criminal libel indictment based on an editorial criticizing supreme court justice Arthur G. Klein for overruling New York's denial of a cabaret license for the Playboy Club against *The Brooklyn Daily* and its editor, Arnold Fine, (Cf. p. 30) was dismissed on May Day by Supreme Court Justice Hyman Barshay. The dismissal followed an exchange of conciliatory letters between Fine and Klein.

### Books Proscribed

All copies of the book in Urdu entitled "Shikast-e-Zindan" compiled by Gulam Rabbani Tabban and published by the India Literature Society, Delhi, have been forfeited by the Govt. of India and further publication, sale or distribution of the said book has been prohibited.

A historical book banned in Assam: GLIMPSES OF NINETEENTH CENTURY BENGAL by Ramesh Chandra Majundar has been banned in Assam by the Government of Assam.—Quoted in full from *Indian Library Association Information Bulletin* for December.

## Professor Fined

A professor at the Australian National University, Canberra, was last week fined £16, with the alternative of 22 days in gaol, for posting a book described as "indecent, obscene and blasphemous" to an American professor of Brown University, Providence.

A report of the case was sent out by Reuter. The Australian professor, Kenneth Stanley Inglis, the defense stated, had met Professor Fanger of Brown University, in the United States, who was carrying out research into the origin and development of ballads. He wanted the words of an Australian ballad which was printed in this book, and his Australian acquaintance was trying to send it.—*The Bookseller*, April 6.

## A Critic Is Answered

Mr. Chester Lewis, President  
Wichita Branch NAACP  
Dear Mr. Lewis:

November 9, 1962

Thank you for your letter of November 3 calling my attention to a question of language usage in a library book used in the Wichita Public School System. When any school-related question arises in the community, we always appreciate having it brought directly to our attention.

The book to which you refer, *Little Town on the Prairie*, by Laura Ingalls Wilder, is one of a number by the same author considered by authorities in children's literature as classics in their field for their portrayal of pioneer life in midwest America. The minstrel show, told of in the chapter which you mention (chapter 21) was, as you know, very much a part of the homespun entertainment of those days. From personal recollection of such affairs, I feel certain that no ridicule of the Negro race was involved, and that the author intended none in her account. She is simply recording the social life and language of an earlier day.

Any citizen may read and comment on any textbook or library book used in our school system. Indeed, we welcome such comments and suggestions. However, the ultimate selection of these books is a professional responsibility which cannot be delegated to any lay citizen or group of citizens. While care must be exercised to avoid selection of books which will be offensive to any group, it would obviously be impossible to eliminate every book containing words or ideas objectionable to some person. If this were to be done, our libraries would be a place of bare shelves. May I add, however, that we would never knowingly approve putting into the library any book which had as its obvious intent the creation of a derogatory image of any group, nationality, or race. It is my feeling that the book, *Little Town on the Prairie*, does not in any way attempt, either directly or indirectly to create such an image of the Negro race.

Although schools are but one force in a child's life, we most certainly hope we can exert a strong influence for the good in the development of healthy attitudes toward people who may differ in race, creed, or beliefs.

It is our objective that the instructional program, including the kind of reading materials, would help to create in the minds and hearts of all pupils a respect for the dignity of everyone as a human being. This, I am certain, is a mutual concern.—Lawrence H. Shepoiser, Superintendent of Schools, Wichita, Kansas.

## The Devil to Pay for 'Devilish' Book

EAST GREENBUSH, N. Y.

There was the devil to pay when Mrs. Warren Bower, wife of a missionary, came across the book, "Wicked John and the Devil," which her daughter had found in her elementary school library and taken home.

Calling the book—an old Carolina legend which has been reworked many times—a "blasphemous" work that "ridicules Heaven and Hell," Mrs. Bower complained to Howard L. Goff, school superintendent, who ordered the book removed from the shelves pending study by a committee.

The book, she said in an indignant letter, "sets a new low in moral standards with a hero too bad for Hell." She called the illustrations "terrifying" and the grammar "atrocious." The book is religiously contemptuous, she added, because it gives to Satan the power of God, and the dialect is unfit for a child learning grammar.

"Prayer has been removed from school because it offends atheists," she wrote. "Is no one afraid of offending Almighty God?"

The book has been in the possession of the library for 11 years. Mr. Goff said, and this is the first complaint about it. It was removed, he said, in compliance with a standing policy that any book which is objected to is taken down—temporarily—while a committee of experts in the area involved reviews it and then renders judgment. In this case, the committee will consist of elementary school teachers, since the complainant is the mother of a grade-school child.

The town, which maintains about 35,000 volumes in its school libraries, has had only one other similar experience. In 1959, the book, "Black Sambo," was removed when a Negro resident charged that it was derogatory to members of his race. The charge was unfounded, a committee ruled, and the book was restored.

In a case here involving an opposite situation, a committee that studied J. D. Salinger's "The Catcher in the Rye"—which high-school students had asked to be purchased—rejected it because its members felt the work should be made available only to persons of greater insight and reading skills than those possessed by the average student at that level.—NYHT, May 30.

## State IFCs—Add Three

We are pleased to report that last issue's editorial has brought to our attention the fact that the Kansas Library Association has had an IFC for quite a few years, and that the current chairman is Miss Betty Bennett, Kansas State College, Pittsburg.

We are pleased also that the Missouri Library Association has had an IFC since early this year. First chairman is Robert Wedgeworth, Park College, Parkville, Missouri.

To the Connecticut IFC, of which Edwin G. Jackson of the Hartford Public Library is chairman, we owe an apology. Not only have we corresponded with Mr. Jackson, but he ordered 500 copies of the May issue for distribution at the CLA conference. While we take some small comfort in the fact that the conference issue of *CLA News and Views* does not list either the IFC or its chairman among CLA sections and committees, we do plan to get our right and left hands better acquainted.

## Managing the Nudes

Rev. Raymond Berry, president of the Huntsville, ALABAMA, ministerial association on April 25 asked the city council to ban a secret list of allegedly obscene material from the city's newsstands. Rev. Edsel Keith, also identified as president of the association, said that the CDL appointed by mayor R. B. Searcy three years ago had ceased to function, since newsstand owners refused to cooperate. The matter was referred to the council's police committee for study and possible referral to the grand jury.

Bills which would have (1) removed "matter which is utterly without redeeming social importance" from the legal definition of obscenity, and (2) permitted a DA to appeal to a court to have matter declared obscene, were killed by the CALIFORNIA Criminal Procedure Committee on April 30. Both bills were opposed before the Committee by CLA IFC and SLAC Book Selection Policies Committee.

Assemblyman E. Richard Barnes felt so strongly about one of his remaining bills, which would make possible the passage of local anti-obscenity ordinances, that he enlisted the aid of a high school boy to withdraw a book from his school library so that he (Barnes) could show that a school library contained filthy books. Boy, who was suspended from school for four days for charging the book on another student's card, said he was inspired by a sense of patriotism to act as agent for the lawmaker: "This library is full of Communist books such as those written by Carey McWilliams and Stuart Chase." Oh, yes, the title of the book which contains all those filthy words: *A Dictionary of American Slang*. The bill was killed on May 21, in some measure by his own hand.

The committee appointed by Fresno Mayor Arthur L. Selland to study the need for voluntary control of the distribution and sale of alleged obscene publications (May, p. 32) reported on May 30 that the sale of obscene literature is not a problem in Fresno. Instead of control, said the committee, what is needed is "a positive approach" by parents, the schools, the libraries, the PTAs and service clubs. "What we have confronting us here is a negative attitude on the part of the CDL," said chairman Chester Lindstrom, a county branch librarian.

Obscene magazines have been virtually eliminated from Inglewood, California newsstands following a campaign by the ICDL and the police department, according to a report by Chief R. H. Collins, who said on April 25: "We won't censor any material for the dealers—we just asked them to stop selling any magazines they wouldn't want their own kids to read." Policemen hand-carried a letter from the chief to 42 magazine outlets after a survey disclosed materials on sale that the

### Supreme Court on Obscenity (29 April 63)

Restored to the calendar for reargument next term a case challenging an Ohio ban on the French movie, "The Lovers" (No. 164, *Jacobellis v. Ohio*).

Agreed to review the conviction of a Los Angeles bookseller for selling Henry Miller's "Tropic of Cancer" (No. 812, *Smith v. Calif.*).

## Wisdom of Solomon

The testimony at the paternity trial of Baseball Star Willie Kirkland here yesterday morning was getting racier than a French bedroom farce when suddenly Sup. Judge Clarence Morris spied a very young man seated among the entranced spectators. Rapping his gavel, he called out: "How old is that boy?" "Eight, Your Honor," replied his mother, seated next to him. "Okay," decided the Judge. "If he were 18, I wouldn't let him in. Proceed."—SFC, 7 March.

CDL's attorney deemed to be "legally obscene" for which prosecution might be brought under California law.

In San Francisco, Federal Judge William T. Sweigert on June 7 ordered 10,000 copies of 30 magazines returned to their owners on the grounds that the Government had made no claim they were obscene. They had been seized and held by U. S. Customs under its "rotten apple" theory (January, p. 8). Sweigert also ruled that the seized titles which the Government does consider obscene will be decided on the basis of a full examination of each edition during a trial set for next fall. The victory for the 10,000, if such it was, was short-lived, for Judge Sweigert on June 14 granted U. S. Attorney Cecil Poole's request for a rehearing so that a ruling could be made on constitutional grounds of whether free speech guarantees apply to the "rotten apple" theory in this type of case.

Late in May South San Francisco Municipal Court Judge Charles Becker ruled that more than 700 books seized at the time of the arrests of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Shaver on a charge of selling three allegedly obscene books must be returned to them. Since there had never been a hearing on the nature of the 700 books, the seizure, even though incidental to a lawful arrest, constituted a prior restraint on written material in violation of the First Amendment. The Shavers were convicted on the original charge but the conviction was reversed on appeal and a new trial is scheduled in July.

The U. S. General Services Administration has since November reached across the sea to censor certain magazines formerly on sale in the Honolulu, HAWAII, post office newsstand, according to the *Advertiser* for April 18. Acting on one complaint, area manager Charles Osner said he got instructions from HQ to check the PO newsstand and "arrange for the removal" of magazines he deemed offensive. Asked what he looked for, he replied, "Well, anything that might be obscene photography." Sample titles which flunked his test: *Caper, Dude, Escapade, Playboy, Swank*. The *Advertiser's* story, which says that the U. S. Army in Hawaii already blacklists the same magazines, appeared under this headline: "Is Washington Trying to Manage the Nudes?"

*Playboy* publisher Hugh Hefner was arrested in Chicago on June 4 on a charge of publishing and circulating an obscene magazine and released on \$400 cash bond. Case in point were the Jayne Mansfield photographs in the June issue. Thus alerted, Chicago postmaster Harry H. Semrow mailed a copy of the magazine with a letter describing the local action to Washington for possible federal action. He said he

would take a "much closer look" at the July issue before he allows it to go thru the mails. Thus encouraged, the Chicago police department on June 7 began a drive to halt further sale of the June issue. Warrants charging the sale of obscene matter will be sought against dealers who sell the magazine with the knowledge that the city has declared it objectionable.

According to the Portland, MAINE, *Express* of May 16, state police, apparently working with names and addresses given them by the Post Office Department and Interpol, have made 45 arrests this year for possession of obscene pictures, films or literature. The drive takes advantage of recent changes in law which makes Maine one of the few states where it's a crime to have obscene material even in one's home. All but two of those arrested have pleaded guilty. The police lost both cases where the accused fought the charge.

New York attorney and author John N. Iannuzzi on June 18th obtained a court order in Baltimore, MARYLAND, requiring the city to show why it should not be enjoined from banning the sale of his book, *What's Happening?*, which deals realistically with life in Greenwich Village. The Baltimore city council had on June 3 passed a resolution asking the State's Attorney and the Mayor's Committee on Decency to investigate the book and use their power to ban its sale.

Two nudist magazines and a nudist calendar which the Sunshine Publishing Company wanted to distribute in Macomb County, MICHIGAN, are "actually and legally obscene and . . . should be banned from sale," Judge George R. Deneweth of Macomb County Circuit Court ruled on April 30.

An Atlantic County, NEW JERSEY, grand jury wound up a three month investigation of the distribution and sale of pornographic literature on April 26 by reporting to county judge George T. Naame that it found no cause for indictment of anybody—in large part because distributors and dealers had voluntarily taken it off the market when it was called to their attention.

NEW YORK Governor Rockefeller on April 27 signed a new act, to become effective September 1, requiring the name and address of the publisher to appear in every publication "which is so composed or illustrated as a whole to be devoted to the description or the portrayal of bondage, sadism, masocism or other sexual perversion or to the exploitation of sex or nudity."

State laws to prevent the sale of salacious literature to minors were recommended to the next Legislature on June 17 by the New York Academy of Medicine. The recommendation followed a study made by

## Open Sale of 'Trash' Good Thing

MONTREAL (CP)—R. E. Barker, secretary of the British Publishers' Association, said it's a good thing that semi-pornographic trash is sold openly at such places as the corner drug store.

"This serves as a release for certain people who need such a release and it's less harmful than other forms," he said in an interview.

If such literature were not available there would soon be a flourishing black market in pornographic material, he said.



an academy subcommittee on public health; it linked sexually provocative literature to venereal disease, illegitimacy and sexual perversion among minors. The subcommittee acknowledged its study could not show statistically that any increase in these adolescent health problems could be directly linked to any proliferation of salacious books.

Providence, RHODE ISLAND, District Court Judge Edward W. Day on April 15 rejected a request by Leonard A. Kamaras, defense attorney for a Pawtucket man, that the jurist read all three books and "render a constitutional judgment" that they are not obscene, thus eliminating the need for trial on the indictment. The judge ruled it is not the duty of the trial justice to pass on obscenity before trial. In ruling on another defense motion, the judge directed the government to identify the alleged obscene material in the books to the limited extent of indicating the pages involved.

The Rhode Island General Assembly on May 3 sent to the Governor a new obscenity control bill which sets up civil procedures for the courts to determine if suspect material is to be labeled legally as obscene. If the courts determine that it is, anyone who distributes it thereafter can be prosecuted for contempt. Governor Chaffee signed the bill on May 6.

## "Tropic" Versus Two Brown Sophomores

Book censorship without due process can lead to contradictory situations, as two Brown sophomores possessing Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer* have shown.

Atty. Gen. J. Joseph Nugent personally believes the book is obscene, yet acknowledges that professors of literature, including some at Brown, consider it a work of art. Mr. Nugent has rationalized himself off the horns of a dilemma by saying that it is all right for the Brown bookstore to sell copies to students having to read it in a literature course, but it is not all right for any bookstore off campus to sell it, or for any individual off campus to possess it in public. He will have them arrested if they do and he finds out.

Brown sophomore Edward O. Cole, president of the University Forum for Civil Liberties, challenged the attorney general's *ad hoc* solution. Mr. Cole was not required to read the *Tropic* in a literature course, but he was interested in reading it for recreation. He bought a copy at the Brown bookstore, and told the world about it.

### PC Not Selling Controversial Books

The Providence College bookstore has no controversial books on its shelves and "will not" sell copies of "*Tropic of Cancer*," its manager, Daniel E. Sullivan, said last night in an interview on WEAN.

The policy exists "regardless of any state ruling or regulation," he said. "I try to keep the book racks set so that no boy's mother who comes in there need feel ashamed of the literature to which he will be exposed in my bookstore," Mr. Sullivan said.

Mr. Nugent's nice, pat rationalization began to break down. The attorney general said he wasn't going to make a fuss about Mr. Cole's purchase, but if Mr. Cole left the campus with the book in his pocket and the attorney general found out, Mr. Cole would be arrested.

Here the pitfalls of informal censorship begin to show. Mr. Nugent did not say how he would find out whether the book was in Mr. Cole's pocket. Nor did he say why it was all right for Mr. Cole to read the *Tropic* in Faunce Lounge, but not—say—on a public bus.

The story is not over. Mr. Cole, as far as is known, did not read the *Tropic* on a public bus. But another Brown sophomore, Howard A. Karten of New York City, carried a copy through downtown Providence, prominently displaying the blue-covered paperback as he passed 10 policemen and the Providence police station. He couldn't even get arrested.

The lot of a censor is not a happy one. Mr. Nugent hasn't got off the horns of a dilemma at all. He has managed to establish a double standard for reading the *Tropic*. It is all right for Brown students to read it for fun on the campus, but it is not all right for anyone else, including thousands of Brown graduates who might be assumed to be even more mature than sophomores, to read it for fun anywhere else in Rhode Island.

A postscript is essential. Mr. Nugent will be the first to deny that he is playing the censor's role. But when he issues a blanket announcement to the effect that anyone selling or possessing the *Tropic* off campus will be arrested, he is doing just that. At least, the effect is the same.—May 1 Providence Journal.

## "Tropic" Wins a Few

The Lake County, ILLINOIS, State's Attorney's office agreed on May 23 it acted improperly in the way it went about attempting to ban *Tropic of Cancer*. Circuit judge Philip Yaer was expected that week to enter an order closing out the case following agreement of both parties to a stipulation governing future action by the state's attorney's office in similar cases. Involved was a suit by Northwestern University graduate student requesting a court order preventing authorities from ordering the book not to be sold and from threatening arrest of those who do and from interfering with the book's sale. Ronsley's attorney Burton Joseph said the stipulation will have the effect of preventing the State's attorney from such activity without a prior judicial determination of a book's obscenity.

Appeal from a NEW YORK Supreme Court decision denying a motion for summary judgment on the obscenity issue of *Tropic of Cancer* will be made to the Appellate Division, Fourth Department. Plans to appeal were announced by Thomas M. Hapson, council for Rochester bookseller Nathan J. Bunis, following Justice Ervin Bualvelt's May 6 ruling that the question of obscenity should be decided after a trial.

The WISCONSIN Supreme Court on May 21 ruled (4-3) that *Tropic of Cancer* is not obscene: "An offended reader need only close it in order to escape." In his majority opinion Justice Thomas Fairchild said the function of the Court was not to determine the quality of a book. "Our duty is to respect and enforce in a full measure the freedom of expression guaranteed in the State and Federal Constitutions."

## Parents Conduct Open Discussion

Holding to the belief that "open discussion of controversial issues is a healthy characteristic of a free and democratic society" a group of interested parents turned out at the monthly meeting of the Board of Education of the Phoenixville Joint School District last night.

In addition to this group which presented its views in a letter addressed to the board and read by its spokesman, other residents of the area appeared, some to be heard, some just to listen.

The group of parents, whose spokesman was Mortimer Labes, Kimberton, presented the following letter as basis for the discussion:

"A group of parents from this school district have met and discussed the recent controversy regarding 'Catcher in the Rye'. We share the opinion that the banning of books is a danger to academic freedom, but we come to the Board to discuss the effects that this event has had on our community.

"It is apparent that the reputation of our school system and our community has suffered: the action taken has been criticized by professional educators, by local and national press, by the American Civil Liberties Union and by many citizens of our own community.

"In addition, we feel that our ability to attract competent teachers has been seriously impaired, particularly in view of present competition for teachers.

### BAD POSITION

"Equally competitive is the race for college admission. It is possible that our students may find themselves in a disadvantageous position because of this incident.

"We are all aware of the real progress that has been made in our school system through your leadership and we look to you now for leadership in restoring the stature of our schools.

"We urge you to take immediate action that will correct the public impression; action that will prevent this kind of incident from occurring again; action that will develop sound policies and procedures; action that can provide direct and constant communication to the public.

"We are aware that some hold the opinion that continued controversy should be avoided to prevent further embarrassment. However, we strongly believe that open discussion of controversial issues is a healthy characteristic of a free and democratic society and that the whole process can be an educational experience for our community."

There was, indeed, much discussion, but no further action on *Catcher in the Rye* was taken by the Board of Education.

## Communist Propaganda

A civil suit testing the Government's right to block delivery of unsolicited Communist propaganda was filed in Los Angeles on June 5 by Charles Amlin. He seeks an injunction halting enforcement of the law passed by Congress last fall requiring postmasters to hold up delivery of mail identified as Communist propaganda (March, p. 17). Amlin claims he is entitled to receive all mail addressed to him—"Communist political propaganda, anti-Communist or neither," and to "determine (for himself) whether to read all or any of it."

## Legion Loses One

The Monterey Park, California, Public Library Friends of the Library came under attack on March 11 for scheduling NAACP VP Loren Miller to speak on Segregation in Suburbia at the public library. Objection was to alleged Communist background of Miller. The American Legion and the Republican Club sent letters of objection to the city council a week before the meeting, even though the lecture had been publicly announced two months earlier. Council, ired by the timing, voted to file the letters; the library board, also meeting that same evening, also ordered the letters filed. Council and Board were backed up by Congressman George E. Brown, Jr., who repudiated the charges that Miller was or had ever been a Communist. Thanks to the flap, the meeting was a huge success, and on March 28 Monterey Park American Legion Post 397 Commander Tom Golden appeared before the city council to make it clear that nobody but the Commander is authorized to speak for the Post. He said that the 18th district Americanism chairman Herbert Connaughton had spoken for himself or the district, "but not for the Monterey Park post."

## "The Best Defense . . ."

A Workshop on Censorship and Controversial Books and Materials in Libraries is being offered by the Department of Library Science of Arizona State University for the summer session, June 17-July 20. The course is not restricted to Library Science students, but open to all interested persons with good background in reading and sound academic training.

In an unusual counter-offensive, Ontario, CALIFORNIA, librarian Jim Housel, disturbed by the nature and emphasis of a Citizens for Decent Literature meeting in nearby Pomona, on June 3, wrote a letter to the national office of CDL in Cincinnati offering the services of librarians in the promotion of a positive reading program which would go far toward making the more negative aspects of CDL activity unnecessary. "If your committees around the country are really interested in good literature as they say, and if they are willing to promote good literature, you may be able to accomplish a great deal." Housel has also published with his own introduction the February 6 address on Censorship given to the Santa Fe Springs Democratic Club by Librarian Oscar Smaalders (May, p. 32).

The Young Women's Christian Association and the National Council of Jewish Women in San Diego recently gave five awards for what they called "The Challenge of Personal Commitment." One of the awards was "for demonstrated commitment to upholding and defending freedom of speech, religion, assembly and the press." There were four candidates nominated for

### Summons Withdrawn

The Customs and Excise has withdrawn a summons against a senior member of Leeds University, Dr. L. Peters, accusing him of importing an indecent book, *Tropic of Cancer*, at London Airport, it was reported last week. The summons, which was issued on January 26th, is withdrawn because the book has now been published in this country.—*The Bookseller*, April 27.

this award, and at a large luncheon two weeks ago the Library Commission of the City of San Diego was given the award for its objective handling of censorship problems.

The freedom to read got a close look and general approval in a panel discussion at Wyer Auditorium in the Denver Public Library on April 23 held in connection with National Library Week. Rabbi Manuel Laderman supplied this new definition of censorship: "Taste backed by force."

Directors of the Bergen County, NEW JERSEY, Ethical Culture Society on April 17 issued a statement condemning all public restriction of teen-agers' minds and citing their concern over recent attempts to restrict reading of teen-agers in Paterson and East Paterson. Cases in point were recent attempts to suppress *Children of Sanchez* and *Dictionary of American Slang* for obscenity. The statement concludes: "Above all, the way for society to educate the characters and minds of young people is not to hide books until a theoretical proper age but to continually demonstrate through its very fabric the ideal of a sound mind in a sound body."

Charles H. Speirs, Head of the Fiction and Sports Division of the Rochester, NEW YORK, Public Library, reports much favorable comment from the public on a recent display of "Books Under Censorship." The display, based on Haight's *Banned Books* and Downs' *The First Freedom*, received much favorable press comment also.

## Censorship May Drive Shapiro From Nebraska Campus

The University of Nebraska may lose Pulitzer Prize poet Karl Shapiro, who is seriously considering an offer from the University of Hawaii largely because of censorship imposed at NU on *The Prairie Schooner*, which he had edited from 1956 until last winter. At issue was a short story by former NU student Irving Krause, entitled "Anniversary," which was ordered withheld from the spring issue by College of Arts and Sciences Dean Walter Militizer. Shapiro noted one other instance of attempted censorship of the magazine. This restrictive atmosphere, a factor in his giving up the editorship, and a prime factor in giving it up six months earlier than planned, was given by Shapiro as the major reason for considering greener, more Western pastures.

## "Another Country" in New Orleans

The manager and another employee of the New Orleans Doubleday Book Store were arrested on June 17 for selling James Baldwin's *Another Country*. Vice Squad Sgt. Frederick A. Soule, Sr. said he had advised local booksellers that the city attorney's office considered the book obscene, and made the arrest only after his advice had been ignored. The following day, decrying censorship, Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison refused to take charges against the victims of the arrest, and attacked the police file on a dozen or more such books which apparently are included in a two-inch thick file otherwise consisting of magazines and paperback novels. Among several quotable Garrison paragraphs are these two sentences: "I think there is no place in this city for censorship. Those persons who consider it obscene don't have to read it."

## Letter to the Editor

We have received by chance a copy of "Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom. Intellectual Freedom Committee of the American Library Association" Vol. 8, No. 2, June 1959. We have found it of great interest and would like to receive this publication regularly through our exchange program with you if it is available. We would be very much obliged to you if you could send us all available numbers of the journal for the previous years and all numbers which are published after v. 8, N 2.

Please, tell us which of our Soviet journals you would like to receive in exchange for this one.—B. P. Kanevsky, Chief of the International Book Exchange Department, Lenin Library, Moscow.

## There Are No Innocent or Beneficial Obscenity Laws

*The Banned Books of England and Other Countries: A Study of the Conception of Literary Obscenity.* By Alec Craig. London, Allen and Unwin, c. [1962], 243 p. 30s.

The author of *The Banned Books of England* (London, Allen & Unwin, 1937) and *Above All Liberties* (London, Allen & Unwin, 1942) gives us, in his latest inquiry, another important contribution to the literature of intellectual freedom. For the reader familiar with the earlier work, it may be noted that the one under review is not simply a new edition of it. The subject, and, indeed, a few of the passages (e.g., in the sections on Margaret Sanger and the Charles Bradlaugh-Annie Besant prosecution) are the same. But the 1962 publication is a thoroughly reorganized, almost completely rewritten, and nearly two-fold expanded presentation of the material.

As stated in the last part of the title, the study is narrowly limited—if one may use the phrase to describe a topic having more than half a millenium of history and the broadest social implications—to obscene, or allegedly obscene publication. By this limitation, works falling under official censure or censorship for primarily defamatory, political, religious or seditious reasons are excluded. Within the limitation, Mr. Craig presents a very full account of the development of the concept and law of literary obscenity, chiefly in England, Great Britain, and the British Commonwealth, and chiefly since the fifteenth century. The treatment is historical and chronological by country. Included are most of the famous—or notorious—cases of books, authors, and publishers running afoul of constituted authority, and the laws, decrees, and judicial opinions which empowered or aided, and too seldom, the sorry story shows, impeded that authority.

But *The Banned Books of England . . .* is by no means just a good Baedeker to the landmarks in man's struggle to write what he thinks, feels, and sees, and to do so as he pleases. The author's primary concern has been to show the cultural and social effects of the practice, and to demonstrate "the restraint which the conception exercises on serious literature and consequently on intellectual freedom and artistic creation." (Introduction.) This aim the entire work abundantly fulfills. Over and over it brings to bear upon the issue specific instances to demonstrate how an apparently "innocent" law, or even one whose whole intent was

beneficial, has been perverted or insidiously extended to the harassment of recognized literary productions. Thus, the English Obscene Publications Act of 1959, designed to protect literature from obscenity prosecutions, did not, in fact, protect the publishers of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* from a protracted, though unsuccessful, prosecution. Censorship, or attempted censorship of *Tropic of Cancer* and other literary works in the United States during the past few years is too well known to need detailing in an American journal. Throughout his study, Mr. Craig argues with vigor and persuasiveness "that the question of the character and administration of literary obscenity laws is of urgent importance in all parts of the world where freedom of the Press is relied upon as a means of promoting human welfare." (p. 210)

A word should be said about that part of the title which reads ". . . and Other Countries." By far the greatest space in the study is devoted to England; only about one sixth of the total text of two hundred pages is given over to countries outside Great Britain and the British Commonwealth. The American reader may therefore be a bit disappointed in the relatively light treatment (eighteen pages) of the story in the United States. The account begins primarily with Anthony Comstock, and many of the important attacks during and since the days of that misguided fanatic are included—*Jurgen*, Margaret Sanger's writings, Gautier's *Mademoiselle de Maupin*, *An American Tragedy*, *Ulysses*, *The Memoirs of Hecate County*, Kinsey, and so on. Lacking, however, is mention of other, equally significant instances of suppression or attempted suppression in the United States, for example, *The Scarlet Letter*, Mark Twain's writings, *Fanny Hill*, Steinbeck's works, *1984*, and *Lolita*.

Mr. Craig writes well, often with wit and humor. He has placed in his debt everyone concerned with the freedom of the human spirit. The press work is of the high quality we have come to expect from Allen and Unwin. Copious notes and citations to original and contemporary sources are given, an up-to-date, comprehensive, annotated bibliography, including many non-English titles is appended, and the index is good. —J. Periam Danton.

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