



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.

VOL. XII

September, 1963

No. 5

Access to Libraries

Access to Public Libraries is the title of the 115-page report of the Freedom of Access to Libraries Study developed by the Intellectual Freedom Committee and the Library Administration Division. It was published on August 19 by ALA at \$3.00. An oral report was made by Robert W. Brown and Michael Rosenbaum of International Research Associates at a joint meeting of the IFC, LAD and Public Library Association in Chicago on July 15, and drew some measure of criticism, particularly from the librarians of some of the Northern libraries included in the study. It was also presented to the membership meeting of the Association on July 19, where there also was considerable discussion, culminating in general agreement to proceed with immediate publication.

President Bryan on July 12 submitted a statement to the Select Subcommittee on Education of the House Committee on Education and Labor regarding Civil Rights with Particular Reference to Libraries. Said Bryan, in part, "Although libraries in all States regardless of region have accomplished and are accomplishing much in making their resources and facilities freely and readily available to all regardless of race, religion, or personal belief, the goal has not been fully achieved. We support, therefore, legislation on civil rights which will bring about this objective."

Executive Director David Clift reported to the July 19 Membership Meeting that 52 Chapters had by then certified they were meeting the requirements of the ALA Statement on Individual Membership, Chapter Status and Institutional Membership. As reported in May, the Louisiana Chapter has indicated that it could not certify and has withdrawn from ALA. Clift reported that the Mississippi Chapter has deferred action.

Intellectual Freedom Kits

The California Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee has assembled a collection of 13 recent statements and articles on censorship and intellectual freedom into a kit being sold at cost. Address orders with check for \$1.50 to CLA, 829 Coventry Road, Kensington, California. A similar kit is being prepared for sale at \$1.00 at the Tri-State Conference in Minneapolis in October. Mail orders with remittance may be addressed to Miss Patricia Georgeson, Madison, Wisconsin, Public Library.

More Than Moral Support

Most of us can make available without fear of pressure or criticism the serious publications that express unpopular points of view on public issues, the books that are hateful to misguided minorities or even sometimes to the majority, the serious works of literature that violate convention. Most of us do not find ourselves called on directly to oppose censorship or to defend free access to our libraries. But in recent years the freedom to read has been challenged in many localities and a number of our members have responded to the challenge with quiet heroism and the stubbornness of great moral conviction. It is very likely as the cold war goes on, as the struggle continues to end discrimination against racial minorities, as our creative writers experiment with new modes of expression in their search for artistic fulfillment, that more and more librarians will find themselves under attack because they live by our ideals. It is characteristic of our profession and to its honor that we expect librarians to serve in the front line of those who defend, and try to extend, intellectual freedom, but any member of the ALA should be able to expect something more than moral support from his Association when his personal welfare is threatened as a consequence of his belief in the Library Bill of Rights. The ALA has begun to examine ways and means of providing not only advice and encouragement but legal counsel and even financial aid when it is called for in such cases. Martyrdom may be worthwhile when it produces great reforms but it is better in each painful skirmish with the disciples of illiberality to win rather than to suffer.—Quoted from President Wagman's Inaugural Address.

Administration's Censorship Plan

A revised plan for wartime self-censorship by news media is being polished by the Administration for official presentation to newspapers, magazines, radio and television in September.

The new code, now being drawn up by Office of Emergency Planning under the leadership of OEP director Edward McDermott, is similar to the self-censorship plan used during World War II.

Temporary director of the office of censorship, to be established under the code, will be Byron Price, who headed censorship during World War II.

The code will ask for cooperation from media in twelve areas, details of which were widely reported in the press on July 29.

Chicago IFC Minutes

1. Tropic of Cancer. California Supreme Court Decision may make ALA filing of *amicus curiae* brief with U. S. Supreme Court unnecessary. Motion passed to authorize Chairman to confer with David Clift and reach decision.
2. Creation of Defense Fund for assistance of librarians in difficulty over problems of intellectual freedom (Wagman proposal). Discussion made these points on which there was general agreement: (1) Not wise to seek formal affiliation with ACLU, (2) Seek Budget for this purpose either from ALA sources or from private sources, (3) Work toward appointment of staff person at Headquarters to be immediately available to help in a crisis and to coordinate local efforts. (4) Create, with help of ATLA, roster of local people; especially lawyers, to whom librarians could immediately refer. Motion passed to create subcommittee to draft concrete proposal for presentation to Executive Board on July 20.
3. Publication of Access Study. Motion passed that Report be published immediately.
4. Book-of-Month Club Awards to segregated libraries. Chairman asked to write letter to Awards Committee and to Public Library Association which advises on Book-of-Month Club Awards to the effect that consideration be given to possible conflict of interest involved in giving awards to libraries operating in conflict with ALA Policy on Segregation in Libraries.
5. ATLA IFC members present expressed need for help in getting information to trustees on what to do in censorship cases. Mildred Batchelder to provide copies of extant documents. IFC to help in preparation of a leaflet.
6. Authority of IFC. Matter of expanding functions of IFC from a recommending body to an action body, à la California Committee, to be considered at 1964 Midwinter Meeting. Committee members to write to chairman after receiving documentation.

Foreign Policy Association

A gentleman telephoned to inform us about the questionable policy of having placed in the Central Library a few months ago a display concerning "Great Decisions." This program, according to him, is promoted by the Foreign Policy Association which "has been investigated" and since 1934 has been "in cahoots with its counterpart in Great Britain" to foist "socialism" upon us. To find out the "truth" we should get a small book ("it isn't beautiful like the Foreign Policy Association books because this group doesn't have the money controlled by the FPA . . .") *The Truth About the Foreign Policy Association* available from the Americanism Committee of the Waldo M. Slater Post No. 140, American Legion, 3905 Powers Ferries Road, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia. He said it would not have been reviewed because "the opposition" would have kept it from being reviewed. I asked the Order Unit to order a copy on approval so we can see it. I told him about our book selection policy; that we make every effort to select books on all sides—but I am afraid we do not satisfy him.—Contra Costa County (Calif.) Library internal memo, July 1.

Veterans Fight Communism

Veterans of Foreign Wars of Alabama have undertaken to raise \$50,000 to establish at Auburn University, as a veterans memorial, a collection of materials on Asian, Russian, and international communist literature, history, and philosophy. Purpose is to "fight communism with knowledge."

Project, for which \$6,000 has already been raised and turned over to the University library, grows, as stated by the VFW, "out of the conviction that wisdom born of understanding and produced by comprehensive study offers America the best hope of perpetuating democracy and combatting the totalitarianism which seeks to destroy the freedom and dignity of the individual man."

Communist Propaganda

Another challenge of the law requiring the PO to intercept certain Communist propaganda mailed from abroad was filed in Federal Court in San Francisco on July 30. The suit was filed jointly by Leif Heilberg, toolmaker and Esperanto scholar, and Marshall W. Krause, staff counsel for NCACLU. Heilberg is protesting the holding up of delivery of a Red Chinese publication printed in Esperanto. "I'm against any kind of censorship, but especially political censorship, which is a form of tyranny and brainwashing." Krause said he wants to mail a copy of *The Peking Review* to a friend in the US, but is afraid it will be held up as Communist political propaganda.

Sixteen Brave Universities

The list of major U.S. universities which permit Communists or other known subversives to speak on campus is a small one. When the University of California lifted its ban on Communist speakers last month, it became the 16th major university with a clearly stated policy allowing subversives to sound off.

Seven private universities and nine public institutions are on the list. They are clustered around three geographic centers—the Northeast, the northern tier of the Big Ten colleges and universities, and the Pacific Coast.

A survey made for the California Board of Regents determined that there are almost as many policies as there are universities. The list of 16 may be larger, furthermore, because many private schools have vague policies which do not clearly state that Communists are banned.

Private universities with rostrums open to subversives are Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Princeton, Cornell, Stanford and the University of Chicago.

Public universities with similar policies are the state-supported universities of Minnesota, Michigan State, Wisconsin, Iowa, Pennsylvania State, Oregon, Colorado State, California, and the City College of New York.

State-supported institutions with clearly enunciated bans on Communists are the University of Illinois, Ohio State University, Indiana University and the University of Washington—San Jose *Mercury-News*, July 7.

Birchers Try to Burn a Dictionary

The first documented account of John Birch Society activity in behalf of censorship to come our way is a ten-page mimeographed statement of the fracas in Tulare County by Joseph A. King, instructor in English at the College of the Sequoias in Visalia. In addition to being vivid and detailed, it can only be described as frightening. The editor recommends writing for a copy to Mr. King at 4610 West Myrtle in Visalia, California. He published the report as a public service at his own expense, but we are sure he would be grateful for help in defraying duplication and mailing costs.

The Dictionary of American Slang

I. The News

The deadline for the July issue unfortunately fell in the midst of the statewide (California) furor over Wentworth and Flexner's *Dictionary of American Slang*, causing at least one paragraph to end on an erroneously optimistic note. A week after committing the book to Butte County Librarian Usula Meyer's office for reference use by adults only, the Board of Supervisors ordered the library's two copies destroyed. Method of destruction was not determined and action was being deferred pending an Attorney General's opinion on the legality of the order.

Attorney General Stanley Mosk ruled on August 5 that county boards of supervisors have no business ordering books destroyed and that books are the responsibility of the county librarian. The supervisors "make general rules and regulations regarding the policies of the library . . . but they are precluded from issuing orders directing the librarian to purchase or destroy any specifically identified books." Butte County supervisor Leslie Pryde, who in June had suggested that "we burn the lot of them," in the light of the new decision said, "We have no desire to break laws. We may ask our librarian to donate the books to some other library." Librarian Meyer said she would urge the board to keep the books as a reference work for adults—with the two copies kept in her office and available only on request.

Similar action to ban the book, but without orders to destroy, was taken on June 25 by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. County Executive Howard Campen spent a quiet week-end in his Sierra mountain cabin reading the book, pending County Counsel's opinion as to whether Campen had the authority to enforce the Supervisors' order. County Librarian George Farrier was faced with defending the book (which he did, and well) and his budget during the same week. Campen returned to town on July 1 to tell the Supervisors that he had read the Dictionary and "found nothing so horrendously wrong with the things in it." Furthermore county counsel Spencer Williams told them that according to the California Education Code the county librarian, "subject to general rules adopted by the board of supervisors, shall determine what books shall be purchased." From which Campen

concluded that neither he nor the Supervisors had the power to order the book's removal.

Farther South, Orange County Supervisors issued a policy statement on demand of the Costa Mesa city council to the effect that the book would remain in county library branches. Elsewhere, Stockton and San Joaquin County Librarian Margaret Klausner issued a strong two-page statement defending the book which leaned heavily on the library's book selection policy. And in Contra Costa County Assistant Librarian Ruth Turner was queried by a reporter on the incidence of copies and complaints, who added, "You understand, I'm not calling to complain! But we hear that the campaign is getting particularly dirty today."

His reference may have been to one of several pamphlets of excerpts being circulated throughout the state. One of them drew the ire of State School Board President Thomas Braden, whose school-age daughter was handed one of the pamphlets during a shopping trip with her mother. It was revealed on June 29 that the tab for the pamphlets was paid by Hugh H. Smith, Jr. of Millbrae and William O'Leary of San Carlos. Not unexpectedly, the book's publisher, Thomas Y. Crowell Company, reported sales to be up in California, while CLA IFC Chairman Virginia Ross and *California Librarian* Editor Henry Madden suggested that legal action be taken against the pamphlet publishers for copyright infringement.

The circulation of excerpts was severely censured by State Board of Education member Bishop Gerald H. Kennedy, who, incensed at their distribution at the annual Southern California-Arizona Methodist Conference, issued this searing statement:

"The people distributing this paper have culled the suggestive words and definitions from the particular book they are attacking. Claiming they do not want children to read this material, they now scatter it without discrimination so that any child of any age may read the filth they have extracted. Children sometimes go through an age when they are overly interested in sexual references in books, including the Bible. But most adults grow out of that attitude, except such people as call themselves 'Christian Citizens for Moral Action.'

"I have long believed that if we give enough rope to extremists they'll hang themselves. These people have now revealed that they have no sense of responsibility to young people. I cannot imagine any elected official accepting support from such a group, and I await their repudiation of this support. In the meantime, I am grateful that these brethren have revealed to all decent Californians what they actually are."

The San Diego Post Office played an unexpectedly significant role in the drama when three local ministers sought permission to mail a collection of mimeographed excerpts prepared by the Christian Citizens for Moral Action. Said PO administrative aide Warren D. Blake, "You can mail it if you want, but if the material is ruled obscene or if anyone objects, you can get in trouble." That was not the answer hoped for by Methodist minister Orval C. Butcher, who is quoted thus: "We had hoped the PO would refuse to accept it for mailing. Then we could take the stand that if the US Government refused it, why should the State Board of Education accept it?" The mimeographed excerpts were not mailed.

A later story from Washington, however, published in the *Burbank Review* on June 25, revealed the matter had been shunted there. Special Assistant to the PMG James F. Kelleher reported the PO had ruled the excerpts could be mailed to a limited number of persons. PO has a policy of allowing certain "pornographic" books to be mailed to physicians, scientists and others with a legitimate reason for getting such material. He added that the PO had never had occasion to rule on a case of this type before.

By July 1 the now famous dictionary was placed on public exhibition in the Language Arts Room of the Los Angeles State College Library, and a panel discussion of "Responsibility of the Library in the Modern Community" was organized in Arcadia. Moderated by LASC professor of art Hudson Roysher, the panel comprised UCLA assistant librarian Everett Moore, LASC professor of English Wirt Williams, and attorney Stanley Fleishman, who specializes in censorship cases. Conclusion of the panel: Removal or restricting circulation of this book or similar controversial works is a mistake.

Long Beach City College prexy, George E. Dotson, after reporting that the library's lone copy was missing, added, "I see no reason why we should have a copy." City college faculty members apparently do see reason why, and were reported on July 9 to be requesting the dictionary be replaced. "There is no question such books should be in college libraries," said LBCC instructor Donald E. Fitzgerald, president of the Long Beach Federation of Teachers.

At the other end of the state, in Redding, young scholars may stand, but cannot sit, while reading the dictionary in the Shasta College Library. The book has been removed from its usual niche in the reference stacks and relegated to a special shelf at the library's check-out stand. There it sits—at all times under a clerk's watchful eye.

Previously available to juveniles and adults for reference use only, the dictionary was ordered placed on a "restricted" shelf by the Anaheim library board on July 15. In view of the board's action, library director Bill Griffith said he would place two other slang dictionaries on the restricted shelf also. He said the *American Thesaurus of Slang* and *A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* were "nearly as bad."

In Tulare county, where the board of education requested the supervisors to ban the dictionary from county libraries, a petition with the same intent was circulated by a group of citizens under the leadership of Mrs. Richard Watson of Visalia. Each petition had a file of eight pages of excerpts attached to it, made "available for examination only if citizens requested it." Goal was 3,000 signatures, but only 2,000 were obtained. Despite the fact that the petition was "on the whole favorably received," the board of supervisors rejected it at a meeting attended by more than 100 persons, apparently about evenly divided on the issue. Suggestion of chairman Malcolm Crawford that librarian Hilda Collins allow access by high school students only when accompanied by their parents was rejected, with supervisor Donald Hillman stating that he did not intend to ask Mrs. Collins for any compromise. Even so, the *Tulare Advance-Register* on July 24 reported that the librarian had adopted the following policy: Tulare

youths are free to read the book if they are accompanied by a parent. Policy applies only to the main library in the court house, not to copies in branch libraries in Dinuba, Exeter, Lindsay and Three Rivers. Later, on August 13, the county supervisors were commended by the county grand jury for supporting the right of librarian Collins to select books to be used in the county library.

Other formal actions for and against the book: FOR: Fresno school board, Sunnyvale city council, San Bernardino county supervisors, Kern county supervisors, Los Angeles county supervisors, Tulare county supervisors.

AGAINST: Oroville union high school board, Placer county supervisors, Carlsbad city council, Tulare county school board, Magnolia school district (Anaheim), Riverside city council, Elsinore city council, Tulare county board of education, Westminster city council.

II. The Editorial (1)

The Board of Directors of the California Library Association deplores the hysteria which is sweeping the State in connection with *The Dictionary of American Slang*, by Harold Wentworth and Stuart Berg Flexner, published by the Thomas Y. Crowell Company in 1960. This book is a standard, reliable reference work of 669 pages containing 20,000 definitions. It deals with the origin, history, and usage of slang words and phrases; entries come from every period of American history. Its treatment of the taboo words relating to sex is factual and historical; such words form only a small part of the whole, and taboo and derogatory terms are clearly

Something Blue

The distribution of allegedly obscene Blue Chip stamps, first reported in the local press last week, is causing a major furor among citizens already concerned over the recent *Tropic of Cancer* and *Dictionary of American Slang* controversies. Earlier casual allusions by the press to the appearance of stamps bearing the word "sex" in green ink, and another (presumably unprintable) word in red ink, went almost unnoticed, but the Tuesday morning seizure by the Post Office of several books of stamps mailed to a redemption center in Anaheim brought the matter suddenly to public scrutiny, and an editorial entitled: "Are our grocery stores peddling filth?" elicited a storm of angry letters. Dr. Mac Hinery, Superintendent of the Mens Sana Unified School District, told reporters last night that he was "profoundly shocked" by the revelation. "Every other page is covered with sex," he stated, indicating the thick Blue Chip savings book on his desk. "It is nothing better than a manual of perverted practices." A pamphlet circulated by CLICTS, the hastily-organized Citizens' League to Insure Clean Trading Stamps, alleges that the obscene stamps are distributed to minors by filling stations and department stores; the organization is also mailing out photostats of the "blue" stamps. Authorities are investigating rumors that the offensive stamps emanate from Mainland China.—
UCLA Librarian, 12 July.

indicated as such. This book has a legitimate place in the reference collections of public, high school, and college libraries.

The attacks made on the book constitute censorship. The book has been judged on the basis of excerpts; its removal from libraries has been ordered in response to pressure groups whose admitted concern is not with the book, but with its exploitation in a battle of ideologies. If any individual believes the book to be obscene he may take action under Section 311 of the Penal Code of the State of California.

Attempts by pressure groups to force removal of books from libraries are a violation of a basic principle of our democratic society—the principle that each individual has the right to freedom of choice in his reading material. Free men must stand firm on democratic principles and must exercise the responsibilities that accompany their rights.—29 June.

III. The Editorial (2)

Too often lost sight of, in the welter of public acrimony over a book like that recently involving the *Dictionary of American Slang*, is the duty of the public librarian and the experience, responsibility and judgment he brings to his job.

A book does not simply happen to appear on a library shelf, or in its reference section or in any other section of such a collection of human thinking. It is placed there for a purpose, even though that purpose might be confused by a few who consider themselves superior in judgment, taste and choice. Its placement is the result of a competent decision made by a professional librarian, often in concert with the judgment of other qualified persons such as school administrators, and is not the act of some johnny-come-lately.

None of this means that a book's presence on the public shelf means that, per se, it must remain. It does suggest, however, that its original placement whether for general or specific use was arrived at only after thought and consideration—usually more than is some times given by those who demand a book's removal.—Whittier *Daily News*, July 19.

Resolution

WHEREAS, The Catholic Interracial Council-Queens Chapter maintains that minority groups have made significant contributions to the political, economic, and social growth of our country; and WHEREAS, The CIC-Queens Chapter takes notice that some textbooks, especially in English and the social studies, omit or minimize the role of minority groups in our society; and WHEREAS, The CIC-Queens Chapter deplores the use of any textbook that ignores minority groups or limits the narration on minority groups to stories of poverty, illiteracy, crime, and other negative characteristics; and WHEREAS, such textbooks evade historical objectivity, fail to recognize our pluralistic society, and engender intergroup tensions; BE IT,

RESOLVED: That the CIC-Queens Chapter urges publishers of textbooks to make any necessary revisions in both printed text and illustrations to achieve an adequate and a balanced recognition of minority groups; and further RESOLVED, That the CIC urges all officials having authority to approve or purchase textbooks to limit their selections to textbooks that adequately and fairly portray the role of minority groups in the growth and improvement of our society.

September, 1963

Librarians Rap Censors

Directors of the Orange County Library Association on June 21 condemned attempts at arbitrary censorship of the controversial *Dictionary of American Slang*.

The association issued a formal statement aimed at actions of "volunteer arbiters of morals" in the removal of books from library shelves "because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval," an association spokesman reported.

The association's action at a board of directors meeting in Santa Ana was in direct response to pressure brought to bear against the dictionary "by certain groups or individuals" seeking its removal from public libraries.

Bookstore Bans Baldwin's Book

Asst. City Atty. Edward K. Pinner, Sr., has revealed that the operators of the Doubleday Book Store, 633 Canal, have indicated they will not reorder or sell the controversial novel *Another Country* by James Baldwin.

Pinner said the firm has agreed to go along with the truce under which most book dealers operate. For the past two years, the dealers have been voluntarily withholding books the city attorney's office feels are in violation of the law.

Frank P. Rossetter, manager of the Doubleday store, and George E. DeVille, an employe, have been charged in Municipal Court with possessing, exhibiting and selling obscene literature—the Baldwin novel. —New Orleans *States & Item*, June 22.

After a meeting on June 25 trade and paper edition publishers Dial and Dell announced that, "One way or another, the book will be defended in New Orleans." Simultaneously attorney Horace Manges told PW he was contacting local counsel in preparation for seeking a declaratory judgment clearing the book of obscenity charges. Meanwhile Doubleday announced it had adopted the policy reported above "because we think the publishers are taking what we think is more appropriate legal action." Doubleday also offered to join Dial and Dell in their civil action for a declaratory judgment. Later (PW July 22) it was decided to drop this civil action in favor of defending the booksellers.

The book came into question also in Omaha, where Assistant City Attorney Edward M. Stein on June 26 decided *Another Country* is not legally describable as obscene. His opinion was based in part on reviews in *The Christian Science Monitor* and *Saturday Review*.

Scotland Yard in 'Smut' Raid

LONDON (AP)—Scotland Yard detectives raided London's Inner Temple, the stronghold of Britain's lawyers, Thursday night and carried off a vanload of books and pictures they said were pornographic.

It took five detectives an hour to load the van. Police sources said a prosecution would follow. The Inner Temple is a precinct of quiet lanes and alleys. Lawyers have lived and worked there for centuries. Now it is the headquarters of attorneys specializing in divorce and criminal cases—26 July.

Tropic Loses a Case—Wins a Principle

On June 14 Criminal Court 2 of the City of Indianapolis found a local bookstore manager guilty of selling *Tropic of Cancer* under an Act passed by the Indiana General Assembly in 1961. The bookstore manager's conviction now has been appealed to the State Supreme Court.

The Act under which Keith Cuffel was convicted is so broad that probably no academic, school, or public library; art institute; book seller; or sophisticated citizen could avoid the law's violation at some point. One is struck immediately by the exclusion of Indiana University's Institute for Sex Research (the "Kinsey Institute"), one of this country's greatest collectors of erotics, from the exceptions to the Act. Ironically, the post-Assembly legislative report of the Indiana Library Association for 1961 has no indication that the library profession was even aware that such a bill was in the works, although the bill apparently went through the involved channels normal to the legislative process.

At a meeting of the Indiana Library and Historical Board on June 24 State Librarian Robert R. McClarren requested the advice of that board as to the conduct of the State Library which has a number of controversial books, including *Tropic* available for interlibrary loan, in the light of this local conviction. The Board answered his request by unanimously adopting the Library Bill of Rights, clearly attesting to the belief that the library has a primary obligation to select and make available the significant library materials of our time without regard to their controversial aspects, and directing him to pay no heed to the local conviction.

New York Court "Failed the Test"

One test of a free society's health is the willingness of the people to tolerate some things they do not like and to risk minor dangers in order to protect themselves against graver perils. The whole question of censorship is embraced by this test. In banning Henry Miller's controversial novel *Tropic of Cancer* from sale on grounds of obscenity, New York state's highest court failed the test. The New York court of appeals ruled 4-3 that the book is "flagrantly obscene" within the meaning of New York law and not deserving of constitutional protection. This decision jeopardizes rather than protects the health of our free society. To say this is not to defend Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer* but to champion something much more important: the right of the people to a free press. *Tropic of Cancer's* literary and sociological value are at least questionable and some of its passages certainly revolt moral and aesthetic sensitivity. Nevertheless it is a book which the healthy mind can take in stride—and the sick mind is apt to find as much appeal to prurient interest in the Bible as in Miller's sordid descriptions. The quality of the novel is irrelevant. The significant question is this: Do we by our refusal to tolerate the offenses of this book and to risk the danger it may have for some weak and diseased minds court the larger danger: a denial of the right of the people to choose for themselves what they shall read and to read what they choose?—*Christian Century*, July 31.

Score On Tropic: Two to Two

The California Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, on June 2 ruled that *Tropic of Cancer* cannot be banned as "hard-core pornography" under the state obscenity statutes. The decision, written by Justice Matthew O. Tobriner, said that the 1961 amendments to the obscenity law intended to give "legal sanction to all material related to sex, except that which is totally devoid of social importance. Clearly the statute imposes no authority on the courts to act as censors."

The Lansing, MICHIGAN, Board of Education on July 1 rejected a police department request to remove *Tropic of Cancer* from the public library, because it considered the request to be an act of censorship. Superintendent Forrest G. Averill said the book is not available to minors but is on hand for adults on request. Request for removal came in a letter from Captain Clarissa Young and Kenneth Swan of the Juvenile Division.

Freeburg, MISSOURI, police magistrate Edmund J. Kleine on July 6 found the owner and two employees of The Book Mart guilty of violating the city's obscenity ordinance and fined them \$200 each. He found that *Tropic of Cancer* and a number of nudist magazines seized in a raid on May 17 were "clearly obscene." Conviction will be appealed to St. Clair county circuit court.

The NEW YORK Court of Appeals held (4-3) on June 10 that *Tropic of Cancer* is obscene and "not within the area of constitutional protection." The decision by the state's highest court means the book may not be sold in the state by persons familiar with its contents. The case in point involved three Syracuse book store employees who were convicted of selling obscene matter. Grove Press president Barney Rosset announced immediately that the case would be appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Australia Lifts Ban on 33 Books

A recent review by the Commonwealth Literature Censorship Board resulted in the reduction of the list of books prohibited entry into Australia by 33, leaving 188 titles still banned, according to the NYT on August 11. Local booksellers considered only two titles among the 33 as of current interest to the trade, *Butterfield 8*, by John O'Hara and *She Done Him Wrong*, by Mae West. The others are either OP or of limited interest. Among those still banned are *Another Country*, *Lolita*, *The Carpetbaggers*, *Lady Chatterly's Lover*, and *Peyton Place*. The complete list of 188 titles was published by the federal government. While the review resulting in lifting the ban on 33 titles seems to have been fairly routine in character, there is evidence of a rising tide against any censorship at all.

Annual Report

Thirteen hundred twelve copies of this issue are being distributed on a subscription basis, an increase of 32 percent over the October, 1962 issue. Average bi-monthly edition has been 2600 copies, due largely to the purchase of copies by state associations for distribution or sale at their annual conferences. Other state associations please copy.

Eros, Fanny, et al.

The CONNECTICUT General Assembly on June 1 approved and sent to the Governor a bill which permits a circuit court judge, after determining that published matter, films or recordings are obscene, to issue an injunction restraining distribution against the originators of the material. Out-of-state persons so named who do not appear in court would be represented by the secretary of state. Anyone thus found guilty in absentia would then be subject to extradition proceedings. Gov. Dempsey signed the bill on June 19.

Chicago police on July 3 seized 3,504 copies of paperback book *Pajama Game* from the warehouse of Capitol News Agency. They then canvassed 291 retail outlets and bought an additional 6 copies of the allegedly obscene book. The Cook County grand jury on July 31 indicted bookseller Paul Romaine for possession and sale of obscene literature: *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*. On the same day municipal judge Joseph B. Hermes issued a warrant for the arrest of an unidentified salesman in the Kroch's and Brentano's bookstore for selling the same book.

Having repeatedly warned downtown newsstand operators to quit selling obscene magazines and tabloid newspapers without results, the Indianapolis, INDIANA, Board of Works announced on July 29 that effective September 1 downtown newsstands would be prohibited from selling any magazines at all. Two days later Mayor Albert H. Losche, apparently not previously informed of the BoW action, said he would confer with the Board about it.

With a unanimously adopted resolution the Baltimore, MARYLAND, county council has established a Baltimore County Citizens Committee for Decency, to which county executive Spiro T. Agnew said on August 9 he would be pleased to appoint members. In a letter to councilman Frederick L. Dewberry, Jr., who introduced the resolution, Agnew said he shared Dewberry's concern and asked for a roster of possible appointees. Dewberry claims the committee would not act as censors in any official, semi-official or self-appointed capacity. Its aim would be to find out the existence and extent of printed filth in Baltimore county and through an enlightened and aroused public opinion gain voluntary cooperation "in keeping smut from public racks and shelves."

The MASSACHUSETTS Supreme Judicial Court on July 2 set aside the convictions of a Smith College professor and a Hyde Park news-dealer stemming from alleged possession of obscene literature and material.

The high court rulings, both written by Justice R. Ammi Cutter, reversed convictions of prof. Joel R. Dorius, 29, of Northampton, and Jack Jacobs, 52 of Hyde Park avenue, Hyde Park, and the Interstate Newsdealers Supply Co., a firm operated by Jacobs. Illegal search and seizure by police without proper warrant was the basis for the high court rulings.

The fourth issue of *Eros* has been banned from bookstores in Massachusetts by State Attorney General Edward W. Brooke as "obscene, indecent and impure," Editor Ralph Guinzberg was subpoenaed to appear in Superior Court in Boston on July 12 to show cause why his quarterly should not be banned.

The Boston *Herald* has called on the Massachusetts attorney general to ask the state courts to lift a 1950

Well . . . !!?

SHOCKING: Among the Buncha Nuts who invaded the State Capitol last week, distributing mimeographed excerpts from "The Dictionary of American Slang," was a Little Old Lady who cornered Assemblyman Harold Booth of Yolo in a corridor. Waving the reprinted "obscenities" in his face, she rasped: "Have you seen these things? They're perfectly AWFUL!" The Assemblyman shook his head. "I haven't," he said, "and I seem to have forgotten my glasses. Would you mind reading them aloud to me?" "Read them ALOUD?" she gasped. "What do you think I am—foul-mouthed?"—Caen, SFC, 25 June.

ban on Erskine Caldwell's *God's Little Acre*. Since then, points out the *Herald*, many state and federal courts have cleared other more candid books of obscenity charges.

An ordinance setting up a decent literature code with stiff penalties for producing, selling, or exhibiting obscene literature was introduced on June 20 in the St. Louis County, MISSOURI, Council. The ordinance set up a Decent Literature Commission of seven members appointed by the County Supervisor and approved by the Council. The measure was passed on July 11. First arrest was made in Affton on July 21 when Walter L. Uhlendorf was charged with offering obscene literature for sale. The literature included: *Playboy*, *Return to Peyton Place*, and *The Chapman Report*.

The Camden, NEW JERSEY, county prosecutor on June 20 filed suit in Superior Court against two Philadelphia distributors and 8 Camden county sales centers to prevent the distribution of "girlie" magazines. Prosecutor said the civil suit was the first under a new state anti-obscenity law passed by the state legislature late in 1962.

The NEW YORK Appellate Division upheld (4-1) on June 20 a lower court refusal to grant an injunction to restrain G. I. Distributors from selling 6 "girlie magazines" on the ground that they are not obscene within the meaning of the law.

New York Supreme Court Justice Charles Marks ruled on July 24 that John Cleland's *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure* is obscene within the meaning of the law. Marks made permanent a temporary injunction he had issued on June 28 at the request of New York City corporation counsel Leo A. Larkin. The decision prevents the publication, sale and distribution of the new Putnam edition. That is, it did until NYSCJ Arthur G. Klein ruled it not obscene on August 23.

Fairfax, VIRGINIA, circuit court judge Albert V. Bryan, Jr. on July 26 ordered author Jim Layne and publisher Universal Productions Corporation of *Swap Set* to show cause why the book should not be judged obscene. Suit was brought by Attny. Paul Peachey (July, p. 45).

The WISCONSIN assembly on June 19 sent to Governor Reynolds a bill to set up a joint committee to investigate the publication and distribution of obscene literature in the state. The bill instructs the committee to report in 1965 with recommendations for legislation. Appropriation to the committee: \$3,000. Bill was vetoed by Gov. Reynolds on July 17. And on August 1 the legislature overrode his veto.

'Not the Thin Edge of A Censorship Wedge'

I am not one of the greatest boosters of the PTA movement, but I think credit should be given where credit is due.

And the PTA's call for a special committee to review some of the more sleazy offerings on B.C.'s bookstalls should not be taken either as the thin end of a censorship wedge or an attempt to guard motherhood from the depredations of bosomy bunnies.

All the PTA was doing was to ask Attorney-General Bonner to set up a review committee for the accommodation of affronted citizens, on the same model as the one now in existence in Ontario.

Since I helped to choose the committee in Ontario and define its functions, and since I was consulted by the PTA on their resolution here, I do at least speak from first-hand knowledge.

Ontario first appointed a general committee to look into the whole question of obscene publications after the premier had been lobbied by a number of influential women's groups.

When it was clear that we had no strings attached to our enquiry, four men and four women agreed to serve.

The first thing to do was to find out if parents, rather than denominational women's groups, thought there was a problem. We drew up a questionnaire which asked bluntly such questions as: "Have you seen in the past year any book or magazine that you consider obscene?" "Have you seen your child with a publication which you think is harmful to him?", and "Have you seen on display a book you consider harmful to children?"

We sent out 4,500 of these questionnaires to home and school councils across the province. From mid-January when we sent them out, to mid-April when we met to consider the answers, only 236 had been returned, some of those answering in the negative.

Obviously parents in Ontario generally were not very worried.

Then we hired a psychologist to search the professional literature and report whether there was any relation between what a child did and what he read.

Frederic Wertham, in his book *The Seduction of the Innocent*, had been positive, but had not adduced any proof. Our psychologist, after a thorough search, discovered why: there isn't any.

However, a study of the bookstands by the members of the committee did find that there were books and magazines aimed essentially at the prurient and obviously intended to titillate if not deprave.

And there were few books which, by any interpretation of the actual section of the Criminal Code which defines (very unsatisfactorily) obscenity, were obscene.

If a citizen wanted to protest this breach of the law he had to go through a long and elaborate process.

We felt that some mechanism whereby the burden was less on the individual would, in effect, put the onus of policing the bookshelves where it belongs: on the people who look at them, not the morality squad.

We therefore asked a lawyer, a psychologist, a librarian and a professor of English to serve on a review committee. This committee would be the recipient of any books that any citizen might object to and cared to send to the attorney-general's office.

If the committee were of the opinion that, if an action were to be brought, a particular submission might be adjudged obscene, they so informed the wholesalers, all of whom had agreed enthusiastically to support the committee by withdrawing the book or periodical from circulation.

If the wholesaler thought he could face a trial if anyone were to bring one, he kept on selling (actually no wholesaler ever has disagreed). If the submitter of the book was displeased that it was not considered obscene, he could still go to law himself.

In the two years in which it has been operating the committee has had about 300 submissions and has agreed that 50 of these seem to come within the scope of the act. These have been withdrawn. They did not include "Lady Chatterley's Lover," "Tropic of Cancer" or "Naked Lunch"—all of which were submitted. Not much like a censorship board, I think you will agree. And a pretty fair safety valve for the harassed parent, the jealous old maid and the crackpot.

I think that the PTA is to be commended rather than smeared for its present approach to a difficult, almost insoluble problem.—Arnold Edinborough, Vancouver, (B.C.) *Sun*, May 27.

CDL Can Go It Alone

June 26, 1963

Mr. James R. Housel
Librarian
Ontario City Library
Ontario, California
Dear Mr. Housel:

I am not quite sure of the intent of your letter of June 3 to the Citizens for Decent Literature (July, p. 54). Since you enclosed a speech on censorship, I presume your assumption is that the organization is pressuring libraries on book selection. Certainly that has not been our experience in Cincinnati. Mr. Charles Keating who is the national president of the organization, is a well known local attorney. Lawyers, as a profession, need not be lectured by librarians on the importance of the basic freedoms in our country.

Your suggestion that Citizens for Decent Literature join hands with librarians in promoting good literature sounds fine as a generality. Actually, we're working on different levels. The hard core pornography with which Mr. Keating's group is concerned here is not going to cause any selection problems in public libraries generally. It just wouldn't come up for consideration.

I think public libraries should go their own way. And Citizens for Decent Literature seems to be doing all right without us.

Ernest I. Miller, Librarian
Cincinnati Public Library

The *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* is published bi-monthly by the American Library Association at 48 Arlington Avenue, Berkeley 7, California, the address to which all editorial communications should be sent. Address all correspondence concerning subscriptions (\$3.00 per year) to Subscription Department, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.

School Vacation Cuts Censorship

CALIFORNIA Attorney General Stanley Mosk says the constitution does not prohibit teaching about evolution in the public schools. "Religious doctrine is not a valid test by which to measure the scope or limits of academic freedom." Mosk's opinion was asked by the State Board of Education after two Newport housewives protested that California's public schools discriminate against children of Christian parents by teaching Darwin's theories. (July, p. 49.)

The Nantucket Island, MASSACHUSETTS, school committee on June 10 unanimously adopted Superintendent Charles H. Minnich's recommendation that any book, pamphlet or other piece of literature that is to be placed in either the school library or classrooms for use of the students must be screened by a committee consisting of three teachers and the principal concerned.

Mr. Minnich gave a complete report on the reason he sent a number of books and pamphlets he found in the high school to the FBI and later to the U. S. Attorney General's office in Boston for an opinion as to whether or not they were subversive.

Boston's Attorney General's office shunted the material to Washington, from whence came the report that none of the material carried the names of "organizations which appear on the consolidated list of all the organizations that are now or have ever been designated pursuant to Executive Order No. 10450." The Attorney General enclosed a copy of the list, so Mr. Minnich could henceforth do his own checking.

A majority of the Levittown, NEW YORK, school board, which threw the district into turmoil last April when it banned a history textbook, on June 17 reaffirmed its right to censor and keep iron-clad control over all instructional materials. Voting along party lines, the four trustee members of the Information Education Committee (IEC) defeated a move by three trustees of the Better Education League (BEL) to adopt a "Freedom To Teach" code written by School Superintendent Louis Blumberg. The IEC majority went on record in favor of keeping strict school board control over books and other instructional material used to teach the district's 18,000 pupils.

Among the more controversial points of the code, which the majority objected to was this statement: "Despite the fact that some materials, books and documents might be personally objectionable in terms of either their authorship or contents, the board declares its support for all such materials which represent original sources or which, in the judgment of the professional staff, are valuable to the study of the curriculum at hand." The code also would have put the board on record as having faith in the district's professional staff in the selection of books, film strips and records and as deploring actions by pressure groups to ban any such materials.

New IFC Chairman

The June New Jersey Association *Newsletter* announces the appointment of Mrs. Zara Horn as chairman of the NJLA Intellectual Freedom Committee. Welcome.

September, 1963

Hersey on Censorship

The following letter, written to Dr. Claude Purcell of the Georgia State Board of Education, is quoted from *Borzoï Books*, second quarter.

"Dear Dr. Purcell:

The case of Mr. Frederick W. Adams, a teacher in Stephens County, Georgia, dismissed from his duties for assigning to his pupils a novel of mine, *A Bell for Adano*, has come to my attention.

Of this case I know only what I have read in newspaper accounts, and I trust, therefore, that you will forgive me if what I write is out of order.

I gather that Mr. Adams is appealing his plight to you, and in this connection I wish to present for your consideration a principle about which I feel very strongly:

The legal and moral test, in cases of language of doubtful taste in literary works, has long rested upon the question: What is the final effect of the whole book on the reader? The admission to the press by one of the county officials who interrogated Mr. Adams that he had not read the book but only certain passages containing profanity suggests that this basic question was not asked by the censors in this instance. It should be said, by the way, that *A Bell for Adano* falls *very far* within the law; such profanity as appears in the book is very far on the decent side of the language actually used by troops in the field. But my aim is not to defend my poor book; it is to argue on behalf of Mr. Adams. For him, I would plead the principle question: I hope my book would pass the test of total effect, especially for readers of a tender age, because of the earnest message it attempts to convey about the nature of democracy at its best.

As the author of this work, which in nearly two decades has never given cause for such a cruel action as the dismissal of this man, I urge you to give him, and through him the children of his classroom, what restitution you can. I feel especially for the children, who must be confused indeed by *this* example of democracy at work.

Sincerely yours,
John Hersey"

State Board Stand Applauded

The State Board of Education merits commendation for its action in reinstating a Stephens County teacher fired by the local school board for assigning the novel "A Bell for Adano" to his high school students.

While this novel by John Hersey won wide acclaim and the Pulitzer Prize, the local board felt that some of the language was a bit too salty for the consumption of young people.

Members of the State Board, to whom the teacher appealed, didn't take anyone's word on the contents of the book. They read it and then voted unanimously to reinstate the teacher.

All too often people are inclined to judge a book by an isolated passage. To understand a novel, or most any form of literature, one must read it thoroughly. Presumably the local board in this case acted after a cursory examination of the book.

"A Bell for Adano" was set in wartime Italy and the earthy language might not be acceptable for tea time conversation.

But it is much less objectionable than the photos and words of scores of publications that any young person is exposed to on the public newsstands today.

No one questions the right of a school board or parents to be concerned over material young people are assigned to read.

But book banning and teacher persecution are dangerous practices not in keeping with our concept of freedom and fair play—Waycross, Georgia, *Journal-Herald*, July 2.

Venture Ends

Montana Governor Tim Babcock announced on June 20 that MSU president Harry K. Newburn had halted further publication of *Venture*, Associated Students' literary magazine because of purportedly objectionable material in the Spring issue. Babcock released copies of correspondence among Newburn, ASMSU, the Regents, and the University Press—the latter having been ordered to stop printing *Venture*. Said the Governor: I'm broadminded, but I can't go for the type of so-called literature contained in this magazine." Opposition arose off campus and on, where a student petition recommended deleting *Venture* from the ASM SU budget.

Censorship in South Africa

The petition against the new South African Publications and Entertainments measure has now been signed by nearly 200 writers and artists, the *Observer* reported last week-end. Its report came from Stanley Vys in Cape Town, who says that it has "upset the Government considerably" that so many of the signatories should be Afrikaans-speaking.

The Government has tried to find an acceptable chairman for the Publications Control Board, by appointing the Afrikaans professor of Dutch and Afrikaans at Potchefstroom University, Dr. Gerrit Dekker, but this, Mr. Uys reports, has made no noticeable impression on the protesting writers and artists.

"Most Afrikaan writers appear to have made up their minds that they are not going to impose self-censorship in order to escape banning by the board. They are going to write as they please and take the consequences," he says. "Afrikaans writers realize that while the banning in South Africa of a book written in English might stimulate the book's sales outside the country—and stimulate the authors in the process—there is no such compensation for the Afrikaans authors of works in Afrikaans. They are in fact fighting for their right of self-expression."—The Bookseller, June 1.

Letter to the Editor

The May 1963 issue of the *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* carried a boxed item on page 30 referring to the pamphlet being distributed by the San Diego Catholics for Better Libraries.

The Catholic Library Association is concerned that your readers may assume that there is some relationship between the San Diego Catholics for Better Libraries and the Catholic Library Association. Our Association, therefore, wishes to go on record in stating that it has no connection whatsoever with the San Diego Catholics for Better Libraries.—M. Richard Wilt, Executive Secretary, CLA.

Court Bans Three Books Praising SS

Three books which extol the wartime activities of the SS and which have all been published within a few days of each other have been banned by an order of the Cologne district court.

Two of them are by the former parachute brigade commander Otto Skorzeny, who rescued Mussolini in 1943. Skorzeny's two books are entitled *Live Dangerously*, and *War Stories of the Waffen SS*. They were published by the Ring Company in Niederpleis, a small town not far from Bonn.

The third book which has been banned is *Standard Bearer Norman* by Guenter Wertdorf. None of the three books may now be sold to the public, and the police have been authorized to collect all copies which have been printed. In the case of Wertdorf's book, most copies were still with the Niederpleis publisher and have been seized.

The Cologne court decided that the books were of a harmful nature particularly to young people. They contained praise of the "Führer cult" and of the principle of selection and indoctrination of the "SS elite." The authors also enumerated the advantages of the "National Socialist movement" over parliamentary democracy.—Quoted from *Manchester Guardian* by SFC, 17 June.

"Rotten Apple" Theory Attacked

Last month federal district Judge William T. Sweigert was asked to declare unconstitutional the "rotten apple" portion of section 1305 of the Customs Code (19 U.S.C.). In a hearing on exceptions to a libel against 12,000 nudist magazines, the ACLU argued that the government's theory that *one* allegedly obscene magazine in a package makes the *whole package* subject to forfeiture and destruction is a prior restraint on freedom of the press. The government has successfully used this theory in forfeiting cases of food or drugs which contain one dangerous or misbranded item, but the Supreme Court has never approved of its use in the First Amendment field.

The ACLU argued that the "rotten apple" theory applied to clearly non-obscene material could have dire consequences on freedom of speech and press. As an example, a person bringing his personal library into the United States would have the whole of it forfeited and destroyed if it were packaged with a copy of Genet's *Thief's Journal*, or *The Kama Sutra of Vatsyayana*, both of which the customs authorities deem obscene. Recognizing that nudity itself is not obscene, the government admits that 10,000 of the 12,000 magazines are not obscene, but contends that the "rotten apple" theory is reasonable because of its deterrent effect on persons who might attempt to import an obscene book. One might comment on this theory that it would certainly make librarians more cautious to threaten to burn down the public library if it were found to contain an obscene book. This theory seems to be somewhat beyond government power under the First Amendment. The case was submitted for Judge Sweigert's decision on April 19th.—SFCLU News, May.

Welcome

We are pleased to announce that Ervin J. Gaines, Assistant Director of the Boston Public Library and Chairman of the MLA IFC, is the new editor of the Intellectual Freedom column in the *ALA Bulletin*, effective with the September issue. He succeeds UCLA Assistant Librarian Everett Moore, who began the distinguished regular feature three years ago.

Schweitzer Linked With Kazantzakis

Albert Schweitzer is the author of one book which a group of censors in Stamford, Connecticut, tried recently to have removed from the shelves of the public library. The two books involved were Schweitzer's *A Psychiatric Study of Jesus*, and *The Last Temptation of Christ* by Nikos Kazantzakis, the latter of which has been under fire in many other communities across the country. Library officials would not identify the half dozen or more persons who telephoned the library asking the removal of the books, but the Bridgeport *Herald*, reporting the story on April 28, quoted the opinion of James Davis, a John Birch Society leader from Stamford that the books were "definitely pornographic and their distorted portrayal of Christ and the Virgin Mary is a sacrilege."

Attorney Harry Terhune, president of the Ferguson Library in Stamford, said that the library was standing fast in the face of these protests. The board, he added, adopted a Book Selection Policy about 10 years ago, and "so long as the adopted policy of book selection is followed by the staff, the trustees will refuse to remove from the library any books at the request of any individual or group."—*July Library Journal*.

In a 3-2 vote the Arcadia, CALIFORNIA, library board on June 20 overrode a city council recommendation to place *The Last Temptation of Christ* on a closed shelf. Reaffirming its "Freedom to Read" policy, the Farmingdale, NEW YORK, Public Library Board voted June 25 not to remove the book from the library. The board also said it would not allow a leaflet attacking the book and the board's policy to be circulated in the library. The stand was taken despite two electoral defeats of the library district's budget, and the threat of future budget defeats made by the local group which wrote the leaflet. Library director Orrin B. Dow said the board would not remove the book no matter how often the budget is defeated.

Birth Control

The Post Office Department has ruled that a book discussing birth control methods is non-mailable and that ads about the book are also barred from the mails. Involved in the case is Fredrick H. Eaton, Santa Rosa, California bookseller, who has been informed by postal inspectors that he will be prosecuted unless he discontinues the sale of the book through the mails. Post Office contends that sale of the book violates 18 USC 1461, which provides a broad prohibition against sending any contraceptive device or information about such devices through the mails. Book in question is *Birth Control Today*, by Dr. L. F. Whitney, biologist and former executive secretary of the American Eugenics Society; it is published by Nelson. — *SF ACLU News*.

Censor Rebuff Given Support

Valley Stream—The executive committee of the Nassau County Library Association voted June 18 to support the Farmingdale Public Library's refusal to remove a novel from its shelves at the request of a citizens group.

The book is "The Last Temptation of Christ" by the late Nikos Kazantzakis of Greece. The book was called "obscene and antireligious" by Edward H. Werner, a member of the ultra right-wing John Birch Society and leader of the protesting group. Last month, the library's board of trustees turned the group down.

In a talk before the association, a noted library expert said that too many library officials were in an "idyllic state of unawareness" regarding the danger of censorship and must mobilize public opinion to fight the peril. The speaker, Eric Moon, editor of the professional publication, "Library Journal," told 75 librarians and library trustees that when faced with censorship "the individual librarian has too often pursued a course of inaction, being satisfied at best with a placid defense, at worst with total surrender." The meeting was held in the Valley Stream Public Library.

The executive committee also voted to reaffirm its support of the American Library Association's "freedom to read" policy and voted to ask everyone of the 51 library boards in the county to reaffirm support of the policy. The policy says that Americans do not need the help of censors to recognize propaganda and are not prepared to sacrifice their heritage of a free press "to be protected against what others may think may be bad for them."—*Garden City Newsday*.

Postal Screening

The American Book Publishers Council on June 25 voiced its opposition to H.R. 319, a new postal screening bill which would establish procedures for returning to the sender mail that is pornographic or is Communist propaganda. Council attorney Horace S. Manges attacked the bill as "undesirable, unworkable and unconstitutional."

Under the bill, a recipient of pornographic mail or Communist propaganda (or the recipient's parent if the recipient is under 21) could return the material to the Postal Department "with a request that the Department notify the sender to remove the name and address" of the recipient from the sender's mailing lists. If the recipient then received additional material from the sender and swore out an affidavit to that effect, the Post Office Department would be empowered to suspend or cancel without hearing any permits issued to the sender by the Post Office Department.

The ABPC objected to the bill on the grounds, first, that "the mere unexplained request of any single individual, no matter how eccentric or unbalanced, would leave the Postmaster General with no alternative but to direct the mailer, who might well be a reputable publisher, never to mail any unsolicited second, third or fourth class mail to that person again, no matter what its character." Under the plan proposed by the bill, the ABPC pointed out, a chaotic system would result whereby each individual recipient would determine what is "pornography" and what is "Communist propaganda."—*PW July 8*.

Presbyterians Eschew Censorship

The 175th General Assembly of The United Presbyterian Church, meeting in Des Moines in May, adopted a report on the relations between Church and State which included the following paragraph:

7. *Censorship of material offensive to one or more religious groups.* Said the report: "We are convinced that no human being or agency has the wisdom to decide on religious grounds what the general public may see and hear." Religious groups may discourage their own memberships from "exposing themselves to particular material that is offensive to their faith."

Cinema Censorship

Eight years ago the ALBERTA Censorship Board banned the showing of "The Blackboard Jungle," on the ground that the film was overdone and that similar conditions do not exist in that Province. Scheduled to be shown on the Canadian Broadcasting Company's Saturday night Great Movies series, the Provincial government addressed a protest to Prime Minister Leon Pearson and CBC President Alphonse Ouimet, according to a May 31 editorial in the *Calgary Herald*. The *Herald*, in expressing its editorial opinion that the whole thing is pretty silly, pointed out that the film had been approved by *Parents' Magazine* as acceptable viewing by both children and adults. More recently, Alberta has banned *The Wild and the Willing*, as has British Columbia. When distributors appealed the Alberta ban, a government-appointed appeal board upheld the censor. Saskatchewan's film censor, Adele MacPheron, is planning to see the film soon.

An Atlanta ordinance providing for the classification of films has been declared unconstitutional by Judge Durwood T. Pye under the state constitution's free speech provisions. While the city's appeal to the Georgia supreme court is pending, city officials are continuing to enforce the ordinance, according to the ACLU.

During May the Chicago censor board issued 390 permits for the exhibition of domestic and foreign films. Ten were denied permits.—In June the score was 86 to 4.

Judge Anselm Sodaro on May 24 upheld the basic validity of the MARYLAND movie censorship law against what he called a "broadside attack" in a test case headed for the Maryland Court of Appeals. Rex Theatre operator Ronald L. Freedman had instituted

Idea No. 3

May I suggest that in those library systems where it is possible to do so that the system provide subscriptions for its member libraries not already subscribing. This can be done on a trial basis for a year or two, until the member library subscribes on its own. These "gifts" generally will go to the small public library, the type of library needing the information and support of the NEWSLETTER the most. — Emanuel Dondy, Assistant Director, Mount Vernon, New York, Public Library.

the test case November 1 by exhibiting a motion picture without previously submitting it to censorship. Official censors agreed that "Revenge at Daybreak," dealing with the Irish Revolution, contained no objectionable material. Prosecution was ordered for the deliberate defiance of the legal requirement that all films must be previously approved and licensed.

The film, "Have Figure, Will Travel," is going to have to tell its story minus all of its "completely nude" views. That's the verdict of Baltimore city court Judge Joseph L. Carter in upholding a decision of the Maryland state board of motion picture censors.

A \$250,000 damage suit against members of the Maryland Board of Motion Picture Censors was summarily dismissed without a hearing in city court following a ruling by Judge Edwin Harlan that the principle of governmental immunity protects the three censors from such claims. The claim had been brought by Robert Marhenke, both as an exhibitor and under the trade name of Leo Films against the state board for censoring "Wild Gals of the Naked West."

The board of selectmen of Weymouth, MASSACHUSETTS, decided on July 15 to review all future movies shown at the Weymouth drive-in theater to ensure that "morally offensive" films are not shown. In addition, the board voted to ban all showings of objectionable movies condemned by the Legion of Decency. Chairman George E. Lane insisted that selectmen were not trying to set themselves up as censors but rather to work in cooperation with the theatre management. The management appears to be agreeable.

Following abortive efforts to write a new obscenity law, the OREGON legislature on May 28 merely extended the present statute to cover motion pictures.

Memphis movie censor Mrs. Minnie Hooker, on the eve of her resignation, banned "Naughty New Orleans," not because she considered the film obscene, but because she did not like the adjective in the title. The action is not being fought by the local exhibitor.

Current Bibliography

Braden, Thomas. "The Trouble with Censorship." *San Francisco Magazine*, Vb (July, 1963), 42-43, 45.

Ciardi, John. "Book Banning and Juvenile Delinquency." *Saturday Review* (10 August 1963), 16.

Ciardi, John. "What Is Pornography?" *Saturday Review*, (13 July 1963), 20.

Craig, Alec. *Suppressed Books: A History of the Conception of Literary Obscenity*. Cleveland: World, 1963. 285 p. \$6.00. (Virtually the same as *The Banned Books of England and Other Countries* published by Allen and Unwin in 1962 and reviewed in the July issue.)

Dreier, Thomas. "Censorship Like Cancer." *FASL Bookcase*, IV (April, 1963), 3.

Jennison, Peter. *Freedom to Read*. New York: Public Affairs Committee, 1963. 20 p. \$0.25. (Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 344)

Miles, William E. *Damn It!* Evanston: Regency Books. 156 p. 50c.

Pilpel, Harriet F. "But Can You Do That?" *Publishers' Weekly*, CLXXXIV (19 July 1963), 31-32.

Smith, Roger H. "A Summer of Censorship." *Publishers Weekly*, CLXXXIV (29 July 1963), 38.