



newsletter

ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

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Editorial

This is the first issue of the *Newsletter* since July 1962 to be less than 12 pages long. Representing no editorial decision or budgetary limitation, these pages are only eleven in number only because no other news of infringement or enhancement of intellectual freedom has come to our attention. The situation might be described as a reflection of the summer doldrums. We most emphatically do not consider there has been any lessening of the tendencies toward censorship, nor of the need to resist them.

It does seem pertinent, however, to remind our readers that we are dependent on them to fill in the gaps left by an almost necessarily imperfect commercial clipping service. Illustrative of such gaps is the fact that two of the incidents mentioned by Ervin J. Gaines in the September *ALA Bulletin* were unknown to the editor. We would also remind our readers that it is part of our objective to become a forum on matters of intellectual freedom for the library profession.

So we would enlist your support in providing the news in the form of clippings, other primary source material, and original accounts of situations which might not otherwise come to the editor's attention. And we would also like to have your statements of opinion about the matters which occur in these pages and on other matters pertaining to intellectual freedom which ought to find their expression here. Our next deadline is December 15.

More Than Moral Support (II)

(The following report of a Sub-Committee of the Intellectual Freedom Committee appointed in Chicago "to propose ALA action in cases of attacks on intellectual freedom" is being presented to the ALA Executive Board for discussion and possible action at its November meeting.)

The Sub-Committee believes that the frequent attacks being made throughout the nation on the book selection policies of libraries, and on books themselves, because of political or moral objections, demand more direct and practical assistance by the American Library Association to librarians and libraries concerned than the Association is now able to provide. There is evidence that such attacks are on the increase, and that in some instances the authority of librarians and of boards of library trustees is being threatened and even undermined by individual or community efforts to remove books and other materials from libraries or to prevent their acquisition by libraries. The freedom to read is being impaired in communities wherever such activity is successful.

The Sub-Committee therefore recommends that the Committee on Intellectual Freedom make the following proposals to the Executive Board:

1. That the assistance of the American Library Trustee Association be requested in identifying legal talent among trustees throughout the United States and in the establishment of a network of advisors whose services would be available to librarians and libraries, or who would recommend legal counsel in a local city or region in cases of actual or threatened censorship or attack on library selection policies on grounds of moral, religious, or political objectionability of materials.

2. That ALA staff responsibility be established for the development and maintenance of this service, and that ALA headquarters be provided with staff who would offer advice and assistance, whenever the need arises, and when such assistance is not readily available to librarians in local cities and regions.

3. That ALA seek a sum of \$25,000 per year, for three years, to develop a program of legal assistance to librarians and boards of library trustees. This sum should be used to employ necessary staff to direct and carry out this program, and to establish a defense fund which would provide support, through the network of legal advisors, to librarians and boards of library trustees, when involvement in a contest over censorship requires ALA assistance. It is specifically suggested that ALA headquarters assign to this program a full-time liaison officer whose responsibilities should include the following:

- a. Collection of information on infringements on intellectual freedom which are brought to light.
- b. Coordination of the activities of members of the network of legal advisors and provision of information for their use.
- c. Provision of advice and counsel concerning problems of intellectual freedom to any librarian or library board of trustees, on request.
- d. Keeping officers and members of the ALA informed about problems concerning intellectual freedom through periodic reports.
- e. Study of the entire problem of providing such assistance during the three-year period, and recommendation of permanent program for assistance by ALA

Martha Boaz
Ervin Gaines
Everett T. Moore (Chairman)

Editorial Policy Challenged

(The following letter, dated 1 October, was addressed to Intellectual Freedom Committee Chairman Archie L. McNeal, with a copy to the editor, who invites the comment of other readers.)

I just had the experience of reading *Newsletter*—September 1963. While I applaud your cry for intellectual freedom, I am appalled at your loose attitude on the responsibility of public libraries.

You know, sir, intellect, while it means the mental faculty to learn or the capability of understanding, does also infer and is accepted to mean learning and understanding on a higher, more advanced, more respected plane. It connotes an educational "prestige." Your *Newsletter* and the comments in it are encouraging a mentality that is not in any respect correlated with an advanced, respectable, intellectual level. Your *Newsletter* is deeply concerned with freedom and not at all concerned with responsibility to the public. You have entirely forgotten or chosen to ignore that public libraries are established, maintained and sustained by public money. Therefore, for you to slight public opinion about books that the public pays for is somewhat contemptuous on your part. Many educators think they are the best judges of what people ought to read and they expect the public to submit in childish trust to ALA recommendations.

Your obvious attitude is that the ALA knows all about books and is the high authority on "reading." The ALA wants the "prestige" of "intellectualism" but the freedom to delve into and to promote trash along with quality. If any one or organization objects, you promptly resort to crying loud and long about "intellectual freedom." Freedom is wonderful but bears with it the responsibility not to abuse it. We have freedom of speech but also the responsibility not to abuse that freedom by lying. We have freedom of the arts but not the license to paint abominable scenes or characters that portray animalistic insanity and inflict this tripe on the public. We have freedom to write but not the freedom to incite and encourage degradation and moral depravity in either mature or immature minds—all in the name of intellectual freedom.

You may feel the *Dictionary of American Slang* should be available to the public—but let me ask you, what does this sort of book contribute to the improvement of an individual? What does it do for the reputation of our country? Have educators no obligations in this regard? There is such an obsession with intellectualism and academic freedoms that common sense is bypassed and ignored.

There is no guarantee, you know, that every author is a person of respect and integrity. A man may be a talented writer and at the same time a character of disrepute. Is it the business of the ALA to insure the financial success and inflict upon the public the psychological depravity of such an author?

Like food for the body—books can be either wholesome nourishment or poison for the mind. Have you no obligation to the country (your fellow man) to lift up those of lesser intellect to a mental status of decency? Your answer must be "no" if you stubbornly defend things like *Tropic of Cancer*, *Last Temptation of Christ*, etc.

After all, sir, they are not only John Birchers who object to this "freedom to read" approach on character deterioration (as you so precisely report). Birch Society, notwithstanding—they are people, Americans, voters, taxpayers. Maybe I'm wrong, but I think I detect a note of your gloating with glee when some court decision favors publication of some low grade "literary" production—and how your tongue instantly flips to sarcastic stings when your purpose is thwarted.

Many many librarians across the country are dismayed at the views expounded in your *Newsletter*. They very reluctantly accept some of the recommendations of *Saturday Review*—against their better judgment.—Mrs. E. L. McKeeth, Boise, Idaho.

Dictionary of American Slang (III)

In the wake of California's heated controversy over the *Dictionary of American Slang*, we have these five more items to report: In Newport Beach, the city library commission proposed to the city council the adoption of a book selection policy which would prevent public demand from causing removal of books on library shelves. The commission held the city librarian should have final responsibility. In Visalia on August 20 the trustees of the College of the Sequoias refused to fire English Instructor Joseph A. King, who had publicly defended the dictionary before the Tulare County Board of Supervisors. Four persons, of whom only Mrs. Paul Moore and Marvin Christie were identified, requested his ouster.

A request from parents that the Carlsbad High School (Oceanside, California) library be declared off-limits to their children was denied on September 24 by School trustees. Parents representing 9 families had asked that their own children be kept out of the library because of the presence of the *Dictionary of American Slang*, which is in the library in limited circulation for student research under special authority. Request was denied because the library is often used as a classroom for special class projects. In response to another letter, trustees approved a reply telling a parent the dictionary would not be made available to his children, in accordance with general district policy to deny access of children to books their own parents deem objectionable.

Stanley Itkin, Director of the East Paterson, New Jersey, Public Library reports that he also was involved in "quite a fuss" over the *Dictionary*. "Fortunately, the citizens refused to panic and were whole-heartedly pro-book. The press was also on our side, and severely criticized the mayor, who had declared himself against 'dirty books.' Our board of trustees also refused to be stampeded and refused to remove the book. After a while the uproar subsided and the incident was forgotten."

Apparently under consideration for addition to high school libraries in New York City, the *Dictionary of American Slang* drew adverse comment from the American Legion, the New York City High School Parents Association, and the Queens Boro Federation of Parents Clubs, Inc. No action had been taken as of August 14, but librarians involved in the selection process may certainly be said to be working under duress.

Intellectual Freedom in Libraries

A Statement of Policy for The Wisconsin Library Association*

A. Preamble

The Wisconsin Library Association is directly concerned with the freedom of all members of a democratic society to read what they will in the course of making the social, religious, and political judgments on which such a society is based. Without such freedom the very fabric of democracy is in danger. There is evidence that books and libraries are the chief bastion against the pressures toward conformity which are in large part already overwhelming the motion picture, radio and television, and the press. Freedom is not freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive. It is appropriate that librarians should deem the freedom of their libraries of the utmost importance to the continued existence of democracy. The Wisconsin Library Association follows the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library Association as a basis for its thinking, its policies, and its action in the areas of Intellectual Freedom.

B. Authority

The Wisconsin Library Association has empowered the Intellectual Freedom Committee to aid the development of the Association's position on Intellectual Freedom, to interpret this position to the public, and to act in support of this position.

C. Areas of Concern

1. *Favorable Legislation.* The Wisconsin Library Association is concerned with legislation at the state, local, and school district level which tends to strengthen the position of libraries and other media of communication as instruments of knowledge and culture in a free society.

The Committee is instructed to inform the Association membership of any pending legislation that would strengthen the position of libraries and other media of communication as instruments of knowledge and culture in a free society, to present its recommendations, and to tender the Association's support of such legislation.

2. *Restrictive Legislation.* The Association is also concerned with watching for proposed legislation at the state, local, and school district level which might place library collections in jeopardy, or which might restrict, prejudice, or otherwise interfere with the selection, acquisition, or other professional activities of libraries, as expressed in the American Library Association's Bill of Rights, and the Freedom to Read Statement.

The Committee is instructed to inform the Association membership of any pending legislation that would jeopardize the freedom of the press and the freedom of inquiry and to inform legislators of the Association's point of view. The Committee is further instructed to appear before

*Adopted by the Wisconsin Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee at its meeting Thursday evening, 3 October 1963, at the Tri-State Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. To be submitted to the Executive Board at its November meeting in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, with the recommendation that this statement of policy on intellectual freedom in libraries be adopted by the Association at its Annual Conference in the fall of 1964.

the Legislature in opposition to any bill which, in the opinion of the Committee, would abridge a citizen's freedom to read.

3. *Censorship.* The Association is concerned with proposed or actual restrictions imposed by individuals, voluntary committees, or administrative authority on library materials or on the selection judgments, or the procedures, or administrative practices of librarians.

The Committee is instructed, in cases of public controversy over censorship, to (a) determine the facts; (b) develop a statement of the Association's position in relation to this Statement of Policy; (c) present the Association's position to all interested parties, including the Press, when, in the Committee's judgment this seems wise or necessary.

4. *Materials Selection Policy.* The Association believes that every library, in order to strengthen its own selection process, and to provide an objective basis for evaluation of that process, should develop a written official statement of policy for the selection of library materials.

The Committee is instructed to collect examples of materials selection policies from all types of libraries, and to promote the development of and official adoption by libraries of a liberal selection policy. The Committee is further instructed to develop a recommended Materials Selection Policy for librarians desiring a uniform selection policy or such a policy as a guide in developing their own.

5. *Liaison With Other Statewide Organizations.* The Association believes that the Wisconsin Library Association, Wisconsin Education Association, Wisconsin Chapter of the National Council of Teachers of English, Wisconsin Civil Liberties Union, and other organizations in the State concerned with intellectual freedom, should cooperate to defend the freedom to read and should present a united front.

The Committee is instructed to develop a liaison with other statewide organizations interested in intellectual freedom to the end that all such organizations will work jointly to defend intellectual freedom, and, when necessary, will issue joint statements.

New IFC Chairmen

Thomas James Tormey, University of Arizona law librarian is the first chairman of the newly organized Arizona State Library Association IFC.

Miss Marian Bell, of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, is the new IFC Chairman of the Maryland Library Association.

The summer issue of the *New Mexico Library Bulletin* reports that David Streeter, State University Library, University Park, is chairman of the New Mexico Library Association IFC.

Leonard B. Archer, Director of the Oshkosh Public Library is the new chairman of the Wisconsin Library Association IFC.

The Editor bids them welcome, and hopes they will keep the *Newsletter* informed of their activities.

Eleven Negroes Arrested in Georgia At Horizontally Integrated Library

Eleven Negro teenagers were arrested on July 10 for blocking the check-out counter at the all-white Bradley Memorial Library in Columbus, Georgia. The arrests brought to 18 the number of young Negroes who have been taken into custody for racial demonstrations at the city-operated library.

According to a report in the *Atlanta Daily World* on July 11, Police Captain Grover Knox asked two Negro groups to move away from the counter and permit white patrons to check out their books. The Negroes refused and were arrested.

Seven Negroes had been arrested on the day before this latest incident at the library. Four were bound over on a charge of unlawful assembly and three others were being held by juvenile authorities on the same charge. The four who had hearings entered pleas of not guilty and were released on bonds of \$250 each.

In what might be called "horizontal integration," Negroes have been permitted to enter the library, select books and sit in the library while reading them. However, when efforts were made to check out books, library attendants ignored the Negro patrons.

According to the *Atlanta* newspaper account, statements were issued by two Negro groups—one calling for faster integration and the other urging moderation. The "speed-up" group, the youth council of the local NAACP chapter, wired the Muscogee County Board of Education, requesting an emergency meeting to negotiate desegregation of the library and bring an end to demonstrations there.

The other group, the Adult Liaison Executive Committee, claiming to represent a cross section of Negro citizens, said it felt progress "can only be accomplished by discouraging activities that tend to mislead and confuse the public." The group listed desegregation accomplishments already accomplished and added: "We feel mass demonstrations are unnecessary and call on all members of the Negro community to unite in prayerful and sincere efforts to achieve our common goal." — *LJ*, August.

Negroes "Apply Through Channels" At Latest "Integrated" Library

On September 2, the Muscogee County Board of Education desegregated the public library of Columbus, Georgia, in compliance with an agreement with Negro leaders reached during August. Two days after the announcement, library director John Bannister said that no efforts had been made by Negroes to use the facilities at the main Bradley Memorial Library, scene of recent "read-ins" (see *Lj*, Aug., p. 2854). Bannister added, however, that the library had received seven applications for library cards from Negroes.

The Columbus libraries have a talent for finding new approaches to old problems. While several Southern libraries installed "vertical" integration, allowing Negroes to borrow books but not to sit down and read them in the library, Columbus formerly adopted the reverse practice, allowing Negroes to read in the library but not check books out.

Now, with the integration announcement, Columbus has ruled that Negroes wishing to borrow books from the main library first have to apply in person at the Fourth Avenue (Negro) Branch Library. The Fourth Avenue Branch then sends the applications to the Bradley Library, together with a certificate of good standing. The Bradley Library, according to local reports, then makes a routine check of the applicant, and if he is found to be "satisfactory" a borrower's card is mailed to him. — *LJ*, 1 October.

Georgia Court Finds Nine Guilty In P. L. Closed-Door Demonstration

Fines of \$50 or 14 days in jail were handed down on July 30 to nine of 21 Negro defendants involved in a demonstration on the steps of the Fitzgerald, Georgia public library.

The Negroes were picked up on charges of loitering and disobeying an officer when they refused to budge from the steps after finding the library doors closed.

Fitzgerald Mayor Paul Ward, acting as judge of the ordinary court, turned a tenth defendant over to the juvenile court for further action, and dismissed another 11 youthful "offenders" to the custody of their parents for discipline. — *LJ*, 1 September.

Desegregation of Anniston Library

Negro ministers G. E. Smitherman and W. B. McClain, after being beaten by a white mob on Sunday, September 15, when they tried to enter the Anniston, Alabama, Public Library, successfully entered and spent 15 minutes in the Library on September 16. On the second try they were accompanied by three city officials, while the area around the library was guarded by police. Mayor Claude Dear posted a \$1,000 reward for the arrest of the leaders of the mob that on Sunday had attacked the ministers with feet, fists, and a length of chain. AP.

Some Congressmen Object to Black Infant Care

In Congress, says the *Washington Star*, there is a run on old editions of *Infant Care*, an all-time best-seller among Government publications. The reason is that some Southern Congressmen find the new edition "unfit" for their constituents because it contains large photographs of Negro babies.

Members of Congress are provided by the Government Printing Office with up to 500 copies a month of the bulletin to be distributed to constituents. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare stated that two members of the House, one from Tennessee and one from Georgia, had formally cancelled their allotments. And Representative McMillan, Democrat of South Carolina, said he would mail only the 1945 and 1951 editions to constituents who requested the bulletin. He had collected about 5000 copies of the old editions at last report. — *LJ*, 1 September.

"Obscenity" is a "Nuisance"

According to the August 18 New York *Journal American* the ACLU is asking the U. S. Supreme Court to review the conviction of a Connecticut man for mailing a private letter considered by the recipient to be obscene. John Darnell III was convicted in a federal district court in March, 1962. In upholding the conviction (2-1), the U. S. Court of Appeals admitted "it was a result we cannot view with satisfaction since a private communication only brought to light by the addressee would hardly seem to merit criminal prosecution." But the court felt powerless to set itself against the obscenity statute. ACLU contends the conviction violates the First Amendment.

In probably the first such *in rem* action in CALIFORNIA, Visalia DA Jay Ballantyne filed a civil suit on August 27 to determine whether or not four books are obscene—before he arrests the newsstand dealers offering them for sale. "We have to know first whether selling these books is a crime." The books: *Pix—The Adult Bedside Companion*; *The Lust Circuit*, by Don Holliday; *A Passion Puppet*, by Don Wellman; and *Orgy House*, by Andrew Shoe.

FLORIDA CLU general counsel Tobias Simon thinks it frightening that a simple phone call from state attorney Richard Gerstein's office to one or two magazine and pocketbook wholesalers can cause the removal of all copies of a book from all newsstands in Dade County. Says Simon, "It's censorship by threat, even if the threat is veiled. And it's handled without any official action whatsoever. It's an ominous thing." Gerstein's obscenity experts, Aram Goshgarian and George Orr, were unable to remember, when asked by the Miami *Herald* on August 4, how many books they had "censored" in the past year, nor what any of the titles were. Pressed for an estimate, Gerstein, Goshgarian and Orr figured the number at a dozen, give or take.

ILLINOIS Governor Otto Kerner on August 28 vetoed a bill which would have made it a criminal offense to disseminate obscene publications to juveniles, or publish such obscene items for dissemination to juveniles. "I do not question the premise that obscenity among juveniles is a special matter requiring special treatment, but I believe the bill will in the long run contribute nothing constructive to the proper control of obscenity."

The Indianapolis Board of Works ban on sale of magazines at downtown newsstands was cancelled on August 1. Instead, it issued a warning that if there are any complaints of "obscene or indecent literature being displayed or sold," the operator's license will be revoked and the complaints will be turned over to the prosecutor for criminal action.

The Mason City, IOWA, city council on September 16 passed a nuisance ordinance which states 22 examples of nuisances, and gives the mayor "or other such officers as provided by law" authorization to order the person responsible for the nuisance to stop or request a hearing. Penalties for violations were set at 30 days or \$100. Nuisance in general is defined as "whatever is injurious to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property so as essentially to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property." Nuisance in

obscenity is "all indecent or obscene pictures, books, pamphlets, magazines and newspapers."

Circuit judge A. J. Scheinman on September 12 enjoined Rock Island, Iowa, news agencies from selling, distributing or disseminating books which appeal to the prurient interest, in response to a petition filed by the Rock Island county state's attorney's office against the local news agencies. The petition defined prurient interest as "shameful or morbid interest in nudity, sex or excretion." A trial of one of the agencies, several of its officials, and a Moline newsstand operator on charges of obscenity was pending at the time. The following day the Rock Island News Agency pleaded guilty and was fined \$200 by county judge Conway Spanton, who then dismissed charges against the individuals. Said Judge Spanton: "It seems to me that you have a more effective recourse in the injunction, rather than in repeated prosecutions. That is the basis for the rather minimum fine."

NEW YORK City corporation counsel Morris Handel on August 29 announced the city will appeal Supreme Court Justice Arthur Klein's lifting of the injunction banning the sale of John Cleland's *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*, and would ask for a new injunction barring its sale pending a hearing before the Appellate Division.

Meanwhile, New York police had apparently not gotten the word, for bookseller Irwin Wiesfeld was arraigned in criminal court on September 13 for selling *Fanny* to a 16-year old girl. He was charged with violating a section of the penal law which prohibits the sale to a person under 18 of a book that "exploits, is devoted to, or is primarily made up of descriptions of illicit sex, or sexual immorality."

New York Supreme Court Justice J. Erwin Shapiro ruled on September 9 that badly written, trashy novels are entitled to the same constitutional protection against censorship as works of critically acclaimed authors. In dismissing indictments against three Queens distributing firms and their executives accused of selling obscene literature, Shapiro found the 25 books named in the indictment to be "poor writings, bad in taste, profane, offensive, disgusting and plain unvarnished trash." But he also found that such novels have a place in our society, and that the 25 books did not exceed the "present critical point in the compromise between candor and shame at which the community has arrived."

Farther north, notice of appeal from a state supreme court judgment declaring *Tropic of Cancer* to be obscene was filed with the Monroe county clerk on 5 September in behalf of Nathan J. Bunis, Rochester bookseller, who has been engaging in considerable litigation in a continuing effort to have the Miller book cleared of obscenity charges.

After two and one-half hours of debate the Antigo, WISCONSIN, city council on August 14 defeated (6-5) a CDL-promoted ordinance to promote decent literature and prohibit obscene literature in the city. The proposed law would have given police authority to make periodic inspections of stores to purchase material they considered obscene, which would then be turned over to city attorney for possible action.

Perspective Supplied

Like the clergyman who is beloved more by the general community than by his own congregation, Richard Hofstadter now enjoys a greater prestige with the broad reading public than he does with his fellow specialists, the American historians. One can doubtless attribute this vogue to his considerable talents as a writer. More important, surely, is that Hofstadter does not shrink from using the concepts of the social sciences and the perspectives of contemporary thought to explore and interpret the past. He regards the historical record as a reservoir of data to be carefully drawn upon to illumine and explain crucial aspects of man's present condition. In none of his previous books has he made a more impressive contribution to the understanding of an important aspect of our culture than in his *Anti-Intellectualism in American Life* (New York: Knopf, 1963, \$6.95, 434 p.+xiii).

This study is a formidable antidote to the kind of thinking in which it is believed that only the thinker or intellectual and his supporters—but not his foes—have a respectable past that can be seriously examined. Perhaps jarring, it is nevertheless essential for *News-letter* readers—who must regard themselves at least as defenders of the perimeter of liberty within which intellectuals flourish—to comprehend the historical origins of those who would oppose or denigrate this freedom.

In two trenchant opening chapters, Hofstadter stakes out his position. What binds together the ideas and attitudes he calls anti-intellectual “. . . is a resentment and suspicion of the life of the mind and of those who are considered to represent it; and a disposition constantly to minimize the value of that life.” No mere device of the demagogue or know-nothing type, anti-intellectualism is rooted in the “democratic institutions and the egalitarian sentiments of this country” and is colored by the evangelicalism and primitivism omnipresent in this Nation's social development.

The case against intellect is founded upon a set of fictional and wholly abstract antagonisms, [Hofstadter states]. Intellect is pitted against feeling, on the ground that it is somehow inconsistent with warm emotion. It is pitted against character, because it is widely believed that intellect stands for mere cleverness, which transmutes easily into the sly or the diabolical. It is pitted against practicality, since theory is held to be opposed to practice, and the “purely” theoretical mind is so much dis-esteemed. It is pitted against democracy, since intellect is felt to be a form of distinction that defies egalitarianism.

Spurning these specious dichotomies himself, Hofstadter devotes the major portion of his book to tracing their role in American history: in religion; in politics; in the practical or business culture; and in education. His material on religion is particularly stimulating. In an able summary of recent scholarship on American church history he presents a convincing case for his conviction that in American religious expression lies the prime source of anti-intellectualism. The revolt against an established religion and a learned clergy, the individual's right to interpret the Bible and frontier evangelicalism were elements in generating these senti-

ments. The leveling and pragmatic thrust of our political and economic life from the end of the 18th century to the present have consistently detracted from the status of any intellectual elite. The chapters depicting progressive education as led by Dewey as an anti-intellectual movement struck me as thoroughly creditable. Tantalizing for their brevity are a number of sharply etched vignettes depicting the attitudes of special groups toward intellectuals: the Catholics, the trade unions, the farmers and left wing political movements. These are so well presented that one yearns for more material.

Such defects as this work possesses are characteristic of its species, social and intellectual history (which one unyielding political historian persists in calling “sociable and ineffectual history”). To list these shortcomings, therefore, is somewhat uncharitable; but, I think, the book is strong enough to withstand my carping. In the first place, Hofstadter often cumulates his data haphazardly. Causal relationships are not firmly established but are often taken for granted. The reader must accept that the avalanche of examples cited validates the historical tendencies Hofstadter is trying to assert. Also, in a culture as complex as ours one must set forth such hazy concepts as “American character” or “American spirit” with extreme reluctance, if at all. A writer must be aware of how tenuous his ground when he posits any individual American's mind as mirroring the overall “American mind.” Largely ignored in the book are Europe as the seedbed of American ideas, and the continuing impact of continental thought on both intellectuals and anti-intellectuals. As a matter of fact, Hofstadter's own analysis of the intellectual owes more to such Europeans as Raymond Aron than he acknowledges.

Aside from these objections, here is an important work by a keen and perceptive mind. The author is ever alert to subtleties. He never, for example, blurs the differences between the trained expert, which our culture exalts, and the creative thinker, which our culture eschews. And he knows the fate of the thinker when he is hired to perform an expert function like public relations. Above and beyond being a delight to read, the book renders an important service. The profound lesson it teaches is that the Senator McCarthys, the censors and the others who fear and would repress the intellectual and the social critic operate from a position of some force, buttressed by history. They cannot be laughed out of existence, and they cannot be ignored. If the anti-intellectuals cannot claim so strong a weapon as ours, the First Amendment, they have strength in numbers and in deeply felt beliefs. We must continue to confront them at many levels of encounter. Hofstadter's book provides us with still another tool to assist us: namely, perspective. —Marc Gittelsohn.

Annual Report

Thirteen hundred seventy-one copies of this issue are being distributed on a subscription basis, an increase of 35 percent over the December, 1962 issue. Average bi-monthly edition has been 2700 copies, due in part to the purchase of copies by library schools for distribution to their classes studying censorship. Other library schools please copy.

St. Louis County Names DCL

William H. Webster, a former United States attorney, was named on 17 September to head a seven-member Decent Literature Commission authorized under a new St. Louis County ordinance enacted on 11 July. Under the ordinance, the commission is to alert residents of unincorporated county areas about the problem of obscene matter and cooperate with publishers, libraries, schools and other agencies.

The measure provides penalties of fines up to \$1000 and one year in jail for production and sale of such matter. The commission will be primarily an information agency, with enforcement reserved to police and the prosecuting attorney.

Other members of the commission are Dr. William M. Landau, a professor of neurology at Washington University and chairman of the St. Louis Civil Liberties Committee; Joseph H. Summers, chairman of the English department at Washington University; Ray T. Dreher, city attorney and juvenile officer of Warson Woods and treasurer of the St. Louis Citizens for Decent Literature; G. Gordon Hertslet, vice-president of the St. Louis Settlement House; Mrs. Charles W. Beintker, housewife; and Sidney Smith, Kirkwood pharmacy operator and board chairman of the St. Louis Pharmacists Association.

So Does Baltimore County

A Citizens Committee on Decency was named on September 25 by Baltimore County executive Agnew in accordance with a resolution passed by the county council in August. The chairman of the 21-member committee, which includes 5 clergymen, is Towson attorney John J. Bishop, Jr. Resolution's author, councilman Frederick L. Newberry, Jr., has said the committee is not to act as a censor. Its purpose is "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."

Foreign Textbook Dealer Jailed

A formerly unnoticed ordinance requiring Columbus, O., merchants who sell Communist-made products to buy a \$100 license and to display a large sign stating they sell such goods has developed into a college-community controversy (6-17-63). A small book store operator was arrested and jailed for selling literature written in Chinese and Russian. Near-by Ohio State University officials immediately protested that the ordinance "severely limited" the students' opportunities to study the cultures and scholarly writings of these countries.

The *ban* was originally aimed at such imports as hams, watches, and tennis and golf balls, etc. Backers of the ordinance contend that what America needs to fight the "Reds" is more action, rather than knowledge. The judge who will hear the case expressed doubt that the ban should include books and likened the struggle with Communism to a football game in which knowledge of the opponent was a crucial element of victory. — *Missouri Press News*, August.

Licensing Bookstores Unconstitutional

Baltimore city council president, Thomas D'Alesandro III, several months ago proposed the licensing of bookstores to eliminate the sale of out-and-out pornography, and asked city solicitor Joseph Allen if a bill could be enacted to license and regulate bookstores. On September 19 Allen recommended that all such attempts be abandoned as being "fraught with constitutional infirmities. Any licensing device governing booksellers, no matter how innocuous the regulation and however nominal the license charge, will be subject to the claim of prior restraint and censorship." So, back to the salt mines. On October 2, D'Alesandro asked for the reactivation of the Mayor's Committee on Decency.

Of Positive Interest

A cross-section of prominent citizens from five San Gabriel Valley, CALIFORNIA, communities sponsored a symposium on censorship on June 17 in Arcadia entitled, "Responsibility of the Library in the Modern Community." Speakers were Everett Moore, CLA President-Elect, Attorney Stanley Fleishman, and LA State College English professor Wirt Williams. All of them assailed censorship of public library collections and defended *The Last Temptation of Christ* and *The Dictionary of American Slang* before an overflow audience.

The Fairfax County, VIRGINIA, Council on Human Relations has given a commendation to county librarian Mary McCulloch for her "courageous stand against thought control" in the recent (July, p. 45) controversy with the American Legion over the showing of brotherhood films. Mrs. McCulloch also earned the praise of the Fairfax City Democratic Committee for withstanding "John Birch Society tactics" in the same flap. The Committee's resolution stated its "unalterable opposition to efforts of self-appointed individuals or groups to determine what the people may see, hear, or read in the library."

An exhibit of 25 children's books which have been censored in recent years featured the University of Wisconsin's sixth annual book conference in Madison on July 9 and 10. Conference chairman David C. Davis designed the exhibit to show the full range of censorship, that it happens in the grade school as well as the high school, and that it comes from the professionals—teachers, administrators and librarians—as well as from pressure groups of parents or super-patriots. After the conference, the exhibit will become a permanent part of the Cooperative Children's Book Center in the State Capitol.

Opportunity

The Advocate, published by the Calif. Citizens for Decent Literature (you betcha), urges its readers to rent a film called "Perversion for Profit" — "ADULT ONLY, a real eye-opener, depicts various types of obscene material!" I congratulate the Calif. Citizens for Decent Literature on this courageous invitation to stamp out smut by looking at it. — Caen, SFC, 2 October.

Pitney-Bowes Versus Ike

15 August 1963

Mr. E. M. Davis
Vice President
Pitney-Bowes, Incorporated
Stamford, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Davis:

Recently, after I had waited for an unusually long time, the Pitney-Bowes representative called on me to inform me that our request for an ad as a part of our postage metering machine had been turned down by your company. It was only a simple request, a request completely in keeping with the work we are doing as a public library. I wanted, and still want, an ad on our metering machine to read: "Don't join the book burners—Eisenhower."

Your company, in denying this request, in my opinion is taking a cowardly stand because in a country that is supposedly a democracy you are afraid to do the very thing that will prove you believe in freedom of expression. Freedom is not freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive. If we truly believe in freedom, we must also believe in the freedom of those with whom we disagree to express themselves.

As much as I detest the John Birchers and their attempts to subvert the American Constitution, at the same time I believe in their right to try to persuade me to their beliefs. That is why I think your company was wrong in denying the John Birchers the right to have an ad on their metering machine. There is a basic principle involved here. Your company should resist efforts of groups to deny the freedom of expression through metering ads on the part of other sections of the community, whether in the name of political, social, moral, racial or religious beliefs.

Those who believe in freedom are being irresponsible if through fear of controversy they deny freedom to any expression that smacks even the slightest of controversy.

I have been strongly tempted to have the metering machine discontinued because I think this denial of my right to express myself is none of the Pitney-Bowes' damn business. This is a basic principle of American Public Libraries: Indeed, it is a basic principle of American Democracy. Certainly the Founding Fathers were not afraid to say very strongly what they thought. Are we going to lose our freedom today because decent Americans are so afraid of controversy that they will refuse to take a stand in the name of Freedom?

I repeat, "Freedom is not freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive." — Leonard B. Archer, Director, Oshkosh Public Library.

The *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* is published bi-monthly by the American Library Association at 48 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, 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.

Censorship Versus GSA

An amazing saga of the snowballing of a little bit of censorship drew front page headlines and illustrations in San Francisco newspapers during the week of July 15. The story begins with an October 7 letter from a Pacifica elementary school teacher and secretary of the San Mateo County CDL to Secretary of the Treasury Douglas Dillon about the girlie magazines for sale in the SF Post Office. Lynch enclosed a copy of a list of 199 magazines approved for sale in local outlets of a Western chain of supermarkets. The letter was bucked down to the regional office of the General Services Administration having jurisdiction over federal buildings in California, Hawaii, and Nevada. Eschewing anything as low as censorship, GSA took the positive approach and recommended that newsstands in federal buildings stock only the magazines on the supermarket list. Apparently none noticed that the list failed to include such titles as *Fortune*, *The Nation*, *National Review*, *The Reporter*, and *Saturday Review*. A spate of backing and filling cannot be detailed here, but the saga apparently reached its terminus on July 19, when the SFC reported that regional officers of GSA were told to rescind their ban "on direct order from the White House."

The following day Purity Stores, Inc. president J. R. Niven expressed surprise that its list had been forwarded to and used by GSA. Purity had drawn up the list for "busy, family-oriented shoppers." Niven said that each store had an eight foot magazine rack which would take about 100 titles. "We're not primarily in the magazine business, so we listed the fastest moving periodicals which are family-oriented and sent the list to all our stores and to magazine distributors. The list is not either a valid list of best sellers or a guide for good literature."

Cancer and Capricorn (Cont.)

The American Library Association has filed an *Amicus Curiae* brief in the October term of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of the conviction of Los Angeles bookseller Bradley Reed Smith for selling Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer*. The U. S. Supreme Court had agreed to review the case before the California Supreme Court had reversed Smith's conviction. Meanwhile New York's highest court has by a 4-3 decision ruled that the book is obscene, thus disagreeing with the highest courts of California, Massachusetts and Wisconsin. It is hoped that a new U. S. Supreme Court decision in the field of obscenity will serve to bring some order out of the present chaos.

Tropic of Cancer has been banned by the Federation Government of Malay, after being on sale for several months before police decided to classify it as obscene (July 25).

Members of the DA's office and the Buffalo police salacious literature squad on August 5 urged bookstore operators to remove *Tropic of Capricorn* from their shelves. Book was said to fall into the same category as *Tropic of Cancer*, recently declared obscene by the NY Court of Appeals.

The Black List

The correspondence on "Freedom to Read" in the *Times Literary Supplement*, which developed from a report of a case in which a student was called to Scotland Yard and examined by the police about a book received through the post, is now concluded with an editorial article, which sets out the questions of principle raised and describes the paper's own attempt to get an official answer.

"We have been on to the various departments who bat this grubby ball about between them, and have met with varying degrees of frankness," the article says. "The Postmaster General takes advice as appropriate, but refuses to say from whom," said a Press Officer at the G.P.O. "You won't get anything from him," said a nameless spokesman for the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions (who is currently on leave); "you can't expect him to discuss policy with a newspaper." The only department to be in the least co-operative was the Board of Customs and Excise, where the responsible Assistant Secretary claimed that in administering the Customs Consolidation Act of 1876 "we only have regard to accepted standards of the moment," and said that these had certainly altered since the passing of the 1959 Obscene Publications Act.

Even at the Customs, however, the editor of the *Times Literary Supplement* was not allowed to look at the black list of allegedly obscene books which is still maintained. The Assistant Secretary at the Board told the paper that a book might be put on the list if it kept turning up in passengers' and crews' baggage, and that conversely it might be taken off again once they seemed to be losing interest in bringing it into the country.

"The argument for not publishing the list has obvious force in it," comments the *Lit. Supp.*; "most of the books are trashy enough, and by naming them it would only stimulate curiosity and act as a kind of pornophil's guide. On the other hand it is worth noting that the *Börsenblatt*, the West German equivalent of *The Bookseller*, regularly lists banned books and magazines without any conspicuously awful effects."—*The Bookseller*, June 8.

Students Probe URI Censorship

Three University of Rhode Island students have been named by the student senate to investigate censorship by the university administration of a short story that appeared in the June issue of campus literary publication, *Paradigm*. VP for student affairs John F. Quinn, according to the October 3 Providence *Journal*, said words and phrases were deleted from the story at the request of prexy Francis H. Horn and his advisory council. Horn, on the other hand, is quoted as saying that Quinn "handled the whole business." Story was brought to Quinn's attention by *Paradigm's* printer, who expressed some question as to whether the magazine would be mailable under the second-class mailing privileges. *The Beacon*, URI student newspaper commented editorially, "It is deplorable for a few administrative officials to arbitrarily censor a magazine without legal justification because they deem it 'not suitable' and 'injurious' to the university's reputation."

November, 1963

Academic Freedom

Voltaire said, in essence, "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it"; but Mr. Justice Holmes added that the right of free speech ends when a man falsely cries "Fire!" in a crowded theater. How should good guys apply these limits to bad guys like Alabama's Governor George Wallace? Should he, for example, be given a forum at Yale?

The reply of Yale's Acting President Kingman Brewster Jr. to that question, put up to him by the school's Political Union, was no—it would insult and possibly incite New Haven Negroes. Last week the Ivy League fell all over itself to refute Brewster. The Harvard-Radcliffe Young Democrats invited Wallace to speak there, got a ruling of "no objection" from President Nathan M. Pusey. When the Brown University Daily Herald also invited Wallace, President Barnaby Keeney said that Brown is open to all speakers—"Communists, fascists, racists and bigots." Princeton's Robert Goheen sanctioned a student invitation to Mississippi's Governor Ross Barnett. "Untimely and ill-considered," he said, but free inquiry is "pivotal to the very idea of a university."

The feedback got so intense at Yale that law students decided to reinvoke Wallace. "Offensive and unwise," said Kingman Brewster, but nevertheless "Yale will not stand in the way." Free speech, it seems, goes for the bad guys as well as the good guys. —*Time*, October 4.

Letter to the Editor

Thank you for another opportunity to read and comment upon the *Newsletter On Intellectual Freedom*.

Candidly, while I am much impressed with the *Newsletter's* comprehensive roundup of news items and records of controversy far and wide, it reminds me of nothing so much as a watchbird watching the watchbirds watch birds. I should like to find from the *Newsletter* what the IFC thinks and believes, what it proposes and urges, and what progress it is making in combatting intellectual suppression. While the IFC's intent and interests are implicit in the *Newsletter*, a valuable opportunity to be explicit is by-passed, and the *Newsletter* does not develop a full impact.

As to the *Newsletter's* present limited circulation, I might suggest that specimen copies be sent to LA presidents as well as editors, soliciting their suggestions of recipients for further modest sample distributions—perhaps to librarians of smaller public libraries and the chairmen of their boards.

Delaware, for instance, is a small state with a single university library, a college library, a state library, and one major city library. These probably do, or should receive the *Newsletter*. There are, however, small but effective public libraries in Dover, Milford and Laurel in little centers of rural conservatism where the *Newsletter* might be most useful. I suspect that libraries such as these do not now receive the *Newsletter*. — Richard C. Quick, Editor, *Delaware Library Bulletin*.

Passion Flower Hotel

Mrs. Clara Kaiser early in September protested Rosalind Erskine's *Passion Flower Hotel* being allowed on the shelves of the Hull, Massachusetts, Public Library, terming it in effect obscene, and objectionable because of its availability to teen-agers and children. The book deals in part with prostitution and in the opinion of Mrs. Kaiser glamorizes conditions which could lead impressionable young readers into a wayward life. Mrs. Ann Hayes of the Hull school committee concurred and also objected to the luridly illustrated jacket. Route of protest was from Kaiser to Hayes to St. Mary's Parish Rectory, from whence Fr. James Sullivan wrote to the Hull library trustees asking an official investigation.

The trustees responded by sending Fr. Sullivan a photostat of the catalog card, showing the book to be restricted to adult use only, but conceded that the library's open shelf policy did make it available to others on a library-use basis. Trustee chairman Mrs. Betty Saunders also issued a strong anti-censorship statement (*Hull-Nantasket Times*, 19 September) which set forth the book selection procedures of the library. She also noted that the book had been listed as one of the 200 outstanding books of 1962 by the *New York Times* reviewers, and pointed out that a book "cannot legally be removed from library shelves as obscene, unless so declared by the courts." As of 11 October the book was still in the (overdue) possession of Mrs. Kaiser, and would on return be shelved in the adult section for restricted circulation—not to young adults.

No Censorship Threat Perceived By Most Textbook Publishers

An American Textbook Publishers Institute survey reveals that of 69 firms responding to a questionnaire only 14 thought textbook censorship was a serious problem. The problem area was in elementary and high school publication.

The survey indicated that textbook censorship seems to concentrate in three states: California, Texas, and Florida. Subject areas most often under attack include international relations and racial and religious matters.

An ATPI spokesman adduced from the survey that publishers as a group are not organized to cope with the censorship pressures. — *Missouri Press News*, August.

Another Country

The Columbus, Ohio, police vice squad on August 7 threatened to arrest book dealers who do not comply with requests to remove James Baldwin's *Another Country* from their shelves. Squad head Lt. George Watts said his men have for five weeks been asking dealers to stop selling the novel, about which he had had 15 or 20 complaints since the paper edition was published in June. Watts said he has no power to "ban" books, but he can ask dealers to stop selling those he considers obscene, and can arrest them if they do not comply.

Unidentical Twins

"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" will be performed in one of the Twin Cities next year, but not in the other.

It will be part of the Theater Guild series in Minneapolis. For St. Paul "it might be a little tough," said Severin A. Mortinson, city commissioner of libraries, auditorium, stadium and museums.

Mr. Mortinson saw the Edward Albee play in New York, where it won the Drama Critics Circle award and a Tony. "It's quite a bit on the vulgar side," he said.

"We're doubly careful and we try not to play anything that's controversial," said Edward Furni, manager of the St. Paul Auditorium.

The situations in each of the Twin Cities differ considerably, he explained. To begin with, he said, the Orpheum in Minneapolis is privately owned while the St. Paul Auditorium is a public arena.

"An elected official can get called down for a lot of things," said Mr. Furni. Theater Guild subscriptions fell off last year because "A Taste of Honey" was performed two years ago, he said.

"There's a little different feeling in this town," said Mr. Furni. "Minneapolis is a little more liberal." Both Mr. Furni and Mr. Mortinson noted that St. Paul is a center of Catholicism in Minnesota.—NYT, 28 June.

New Zealand Would Ban Books Secretly to Avoid Advertising Them

Alarmed by the free advertisement given when a book is banned, the New Zealand Government is making a legislative attempt to ban books secretly, according to a recent news item in the *New York Times*.

A bill now before the New Zealand Parliament calls for creation of an indecent publication tribunal to deal with all cases involving undesirable materials, from books to photographs. The aspect that has drawn criticism is the proposal that the tribunal should have power to prohibit publication of any of its proceedings, including its decisions. Thus the public would not know that a book had been banned or considered for banning. This "remedy," says the *Times*, has been widely criticized as worse than the disease it attempts to cure. — *LJ*, 1 September.

Student Editor Silenced

The 1962-63 American "student editor of the year" has been silenced by the University of Alabama. Mel Meyer, whose editorials in the student Alabama *Crimson and White* during the anti-desegregation riots the fall of 1962 gained international attention and drew repeated threats on his life, has been told by university officials that he may not "write upon or comment upon" any racial matters.

Failure to comply with the university's demands, Meyer said, will result in "severe disciplinary action" and possible expulsion. The Alabama administration required Meyer and all other students to sign statements agreeing not to write or comment on any racial matters for publication. — (CPS-CUP, as reported in UBC's student newspaper, *The Ubysey* on 3 October.)

Publisher Sues CDL for Conspiracy

The Universal Publishing and Distributing Corporation, publisher of Beacon, Beacon-Signal and Envoy paperbacks, has brought suit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois against Citizens for Decent Literature and Motion Pictures, Inc., accusing the organization and its officers and directors of conspiring to halt the distribution of Universal's paperbacks in the Chicago area.

The suit, filed on June 17, charges that censorship pressures brought on retailers by the decent literature group forced Universal's distributor in Chicago, the Chas. H. Levy Circulating Company, to cease distributing Universal's paperbacks. The publisher alleges specifically that the decency organization in its weekly periodical, the *Decency Reporter*, threatened the Levy firm with criminal prosecution unless it dropped Universal's paperback lines. Levy, which, according to the suit, sold an average of 525,000 Universal paperbacks annually, dropped the line in November, 1962. According to Universal, it has been unable to find another distributor in the Chicago area willing to handle its books.—PW, July 8.

Covina Housewife Wins in Book Banning

A Covina housewife's campaign against two children's books, one dealing with sex education, caused their removal August 13 from the children's shelf in Los Angeles County branch libraries.

Supervisor Frank G. Bonelli said he instructed County Librarian William S. Geller to place the books—*The Wonderful Story of You and What's Happening to Me*—on the adult shelf.

Geller agreed to the request. The librarian also agreed to re-evaluate all children's books and relocate any others he believes should be moved to the adult shelves, thus making them eligible only for adults to check out.

Geller said new procedures will be developed to bring about "closer cooperation with parents so they will have knowledge of, and direction over, the reading materials of their children."

"It is my belief, that parental responsibility for the reading material of children takes precedence over any other consideration," he commented.

New procedures, which he said "eliminate any implication of government censorship," will be announced in a few days.

You Wooden Believe It

The Woods, McLeod Volz's and Mary Mosteller's beautiful photo essay of Muir Woods has been banned in—of all places—Muir Woods! The Rangers objected to it because "it shows children playing freely in the woods and even climbing tree trunks. Our job is hard enough as it is."
— Caen, SFC, 19 September.

Naked Lunch

Hundreds of copies of William Burroughs' *Naked Lunch* have been stored in a Toronto warehouse since March when booksellers removed them from their shelves at the request of the Toronto police morality squad. This is the case even though the book was in March declared not obscene by the attorney-general's committee on obscene literature. Despite that decision, police took the book to York County Crown attorney Henry Bull, who passed it on to the AG, where it has languished. Meanwhile, the book is available in the Toronto Public Libraries and by mail from the US. "Until we have been notified that legal steps have been taken against the book, it will remain on our shelves," said chief librarian Harry Campbell on July 24.

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OPEN LETTER

48 Arlington Avenue
Kensington, California
22 October 1963

President
Everystate Library Association
Library City, Everystate

DEAR SIR OR MADAM:

One of the more fruitful ideas which has come to me as a device for increasing the present 1371-copy subscription list of the *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* is to suggest that copies be included in the usual packet of materials given to members when they register for an annual conference.

Our very small promotional budget will not permit supplying more than 100 copies without cost, but I can very easily order an overrun of my subsequent issue at the very low rate of 10 cents per copy. Thus, if you need 500 copies for such distribution at your next annual conference, the cost to you would be only \$40.00.

Each issue goes to the printer on the 15th of the month preceding date of issue, and I need to know not later than the 22nd how many copies you need. Copies are usually in the mail by the first of the month of issue, and those shipped in bulk take about a week to reach the East Coast. These data should enable you to determine which 1964 issue you wish to order to be sure of receiving it in time for your meeting.

We very much hope that you may be willing in this way to help the Intellectual Freedom Committee build the *Newsletter* subscription list.

Most sincerely,

LEROY CHARLES MERRITT
Editor