



newsletter

ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

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Censorship: The Profession's Response

Perhaps one of the gravest social and political issues facing the library world today is that of censorship. It is the one national social and political issue that the profession of librarianship seems uniquely qualified to face and provide leadership. How well is the profession facing this issue, and what is the evidence that it is providing leadership? One possible route to the determination of the response of librarians is to examine the literature of the profession.

Using *Library Literature*, as a basis of study, answers to the following questions ought to be available:

1. How much literature on censorship is being published in the profession? and;
2. Compared to total literature available in the profession, has there been an increase or decrease on the subject of censorship?

Library Literature is published quarterly with annual accumulations and three-year cumulated volumes. From 1940 to date, there have been seven three-year cumulations published. In addition, one year cumulations for 1961 and 1962 and four quarterly issues for 1963 have been issued. Therefore eight three-year periods are available for study. Nineteen-forty was used as a beginning date because previous to that there had been an eleven-year cumulation a three-year accumulation and a four-year accumulation.

The 1940-42 volume carried the subject heading of *Censorship* with a "see also" to *Propaganda and the Library*. The 1943-45 volume has a "see also" from *Censorship* to *Prohibited Books* but no "see also" to *Propaganda and the Library*. The 1946-48 volume has a "see also" from *Censorship* to *Catholic Literature-Prohibited Books, Prohibited Books and Propaganda and the Library*. The 1952-54 volume carries the same "see also" from *Censorship* but picks up the heading *Freedom, Intellectual* which has a "see also" to *Censorship*. The 1958-60 volume changes *Freedom, Intellectual* to *Intellectual Freedom* and makes cross-references to and from *Censorship, Library and the State* is adopted as a heading and there is a "see also" from *Propaganda and the Library* to *Library and the State*.

These then were the seven subject headings used in the study:

1. *Censorship* (1940-63)
2. *Catholic Literature-Prohibited Books* (1946-63)
3. *Freedom, Intellectual* (1952-57)
4. *Intellectual Freedom* (1958-63)
5. *Library and the State* (1958-63)
6. *Prohibited Books and Publications* (1943-63)
7. *Propaganda and the Library* (1940-63)

The above headings should include all material indexed in *Library Literature* on the broad subject of censorship. Also since *Library Literature* is the most comprehensive indexing service in the profession, it is reasonable to expect that most of the material published in or by the profession appears this index. (Of course it is realized that not all material indexed in *Library Literature* is written by or for the profession. This service ranges far and wide for materials and indexes a great amount that appears in non-library literature.)

Total citations under the above-mentioned headings were counted including sub-headings (i.e. *Censorship-U. S., Censorship-Controversial Books*, etc.) These citations also included reviews of articles and books. Tabulated by three-year intervals, the results were as follows:

Subject	40-42	43-45	46-48	49-51	52-54	55-57	58-60	61-63
Censorship	28	23	31	55	76	79	64	324
Catholic Lit.-Pro. Books			5	3	1	8		1
Freedom, Intellectual					27	31		
Intellectual Freedom							41	85
Library and The State							4	34
Prohibited Books and Pubs.			5	2	3	19	26	9
Propaganda and the Library	15	13	6	22	21	19	17	14
"Censorship" Citations	43	41	44	83	144	163	135	468
Total Citations in Thousands	21	12	18	30	30	31	41	54
"Censorship" Cita- tions as % of Total Citations20	.34	.24	.27	.48	.53	.33	.87

Two unusual three-year periods can be noted. Total citations in *Library Literature* dropped from 21,000 (all "total citations" are approximate) in 40-42 to 12,000 in 43-46 (later war years.) However, "censorship" citations dropped by only 2. This resulted in the percentage figure jumping from .20 to .34. "Total citations" jumped from 31,000 to 41,000 during 1958-60, but "censorship" citations fell from 163 to 135. War years might explain the first period, but there seems to be no ready explanation for the 58-60 period of low "censorship" citations as compared to total citations.

Notwithstanding the two, three-year periods of 43-46 and 58-60, a rather steady growth in "censorship" citations is shown, culminating in a fantastic 568 books, pamphlets, articles, etc., being published in the last three years. This would seem to indicate that an abundance of material is available for librarians to consult in the never-ending quest for ammunition with which to ward off the censors. Also, it would indicate that a great many librarians are concerned about the question and are doing their part in warning, through literature, that this is a very live issue indeed.

The second question of increase versus decrease in comparison to total literature does the profession quite proud also. The librarian's time is divided among many questions on which to write. But, it seems, a very small part of this time is increasingly being devoted to the subject of censorship as compared to the total subjects about which they write.

Of all the criticisms that the library profession receives, it seems that the one most heard is that librarians are not concerned with vital social issues, and that they are not in the mainstream of contemporary life. It is said that we worry about subject headings and decimals while other professions are concerned with such social, political and economic issues as civil rights, censorship, the cold war, welfare, etc. They are wrong on at least one subject—censorship. Perhaps the ALA should undertake to bring together every few years an anthology of the best in library literature on censorship. I would suggest something along the line of chapter 8 of *The First Freedom*, ed. by Robert B. Downs and published in 1960 by ALA. This monumental work is one of the finest reference works on the subject, and chapter 8 is written by librarians. It is a tribute to the profession. We need more, many more, such tributes.—Jerome D. Simpson, Reference Librarian, Central State College, Edmond, Oklahoma.

Librarian of the Month

Wesley J. Pryor of San Pablo, California, came to the Board of Supervisors on 12 May to protest a book in the county library. But he changed his mind and didn't speak.

Pryor had been cornered in the hallway by Contra Costa County Librarian Bertha D. Hellum, who apparently convinced him that to discuss the book would only increase its circulation. After this, Pryor refused even to mention its name. The book he had come to protest was *The Beats*, a collection of articles and poems on beatniks.

Mrs. Hellum told Pryor that the libraries have special forms for such protests. The protests are considered by the 41-member book selection committee. Pryor agreed to go through channels. She said Pryor was upset when he discovered a copy of the book in his 16-year-old son's bedroom. It had apparently been taken out from one of the county libraries.

"Yes, I talked to him out in the hall," Mrs. Hellum said. "But it was only to advise Pryor that he has not exhausted the proper channels first."

She explained that she encouraged him to speak before the board, but reminded him that publicity would increase circulation of the book.

CONNECTICUT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Report of the Intellectual Freedom Committee

The Committee met jointly with members of the Connecticut School Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee on February 5, 1964 to consider action to be taken with reference to the attempted banning of "The Catcher in the Rye" at the Somers Junior-Senior High School. The members of the two committees drafted a letter, copies of which were referred to the Boards of both CLA and CSLA, with the recommendation that it be sent to the Chairman of the Somers Board of Education with a copy to the Superintendent of Schools in Somers. The letter commended the action taken by the board and superintendent in resisting the banning of "Catcher in the Rye" from the school library. Such letters were subsequently sent after having been approved by the respective Boards of CLA and CSLA.

At this joint meeting it was suggested that letters be sent to literature specialists in Connecticut colleges and universities to ask if they would participate in defending books against censorship. Seven of those who had testified at the trial of Trumbull Huntington in Hartford were asked "if you will be willing to speak for books which come under attack if, of course, you are familiar with such books and believe them to be worthy of defense." All seven replied in the affirmative. These persons are: Russell D'Oench, Jr., Editor of The Middletown Press; Mr. Robert Lucid, a member of the English Department of Wesleyan University (who will go to the English Department of the University of Pennsylvania during the summer); Dr. Richard Wilbur, Professor of English at Wesleyan University; Mr. William Meredith, Professor of English at Connecticut College for Women; Dr. Norman Holmes Pearson, Professor of English and American Studies, Chairman of American Studies, Yale University; Dr. Herbert J. Kramer, Second Vice President, Public Information and Advertising Department, The Travlers Insurance Company; and Mr. Hiram Haydn, owner of Atheneum Publishers of New York City.

CLA Intellectual Freedom Committee

Adeline Mix

Joseph F. Skelley Jr.

May 8, 1964.

Edwin G. Jackson, Chairman

U.S. to Bar Smut Export to Britain

LONDON, April 14—The United States has agreed to prevent the shipment of obscene paperback books to Britain. This assurance was given in a state department interim reply to foreign office representations, received Monday.

The home office has been inundated in past months with complaints from youth, church, and other organizations about the growing volume of pornography from America that was flooding Britain. The matter also was raised in parliament.

Altho an estimated 1 million paperbacks, about 1,000 titles, have been confiscated by British customs in the last two years, there was little sign of diminishing shipments.—*Chicago Tribune*.

The Thin Red Line

"Library censorship is a two-sided question with both negative and positive elements," according to Howard College Librarian Wilbur F. Helmbold in a 1 May address in Birmingham before the annual meeting of the Alabama Library Association, of which he is president. "The matter of censorship involves what to encourage people to read as well as what to prevent them from reading." He said that censorship can exist *de facto* even where it is not a matter of policy. The librarian, he explained, might recommend certain books to the exclusion of others, and thus create a form of censorship. "It is generally true that we do not condone censorship in any form." End quote. We think this library association president has lost his perspective, and that he needs to read Asheim again.

A Workshop on Censorship and Controversial Materials in Libraries will be held by the Department of Library Science of ARIZONA State University, Tempe, from July 20 through August 22 under the direction of Long Beach Assistant Librarian Mrs. Callie Becker. Enrollment is open to any mature student or interested person; teachers, ministers and booksellers are especially encouraged to participate. Librarians are welcome too.

A group of public library trustees talked about their roles as censors on 16 April in Little Rock as part of the program of the Trustee Division of the ARKANSAS Library Association, and reached virtual unanimity: They should seldom play the role. Except for some hazy spots on what constitutes Communist propaganda in books, there was almost no disagreement among them. Sex got a lot of discussion and the panelists pretty well agreed that writing about sex wasn't harmful unless the writing had no artistic value.

Former *Newsletter* editor and UCLA assistant librarian Everett T. Moore on 13 May addressed the joint meeting of the San Diego chapter of the Special Libraries Association and the Palomar District of the California Library Association on the subject "Open to All—Except the Censor." While we concede that to be a good line, we hope he didn't mean it, for our libraries must be open to all, including the censor.

The Palo Alto, CALIFORNIA, Public Library celebrated National Library Week by publishing a lengthy bibliography of books which have been "subject to destruction, suppression, or censorship," under the title, *Pressures . . . from Right and Left*. Each entry is annotated with a list of dates when pressure was applied—and, in some cases, when it was removed. Librarian Kenneth Wilson still has a few copies.

Boston University commemorated May Day as Law Day with a panel discussion on Obscenity and the Law, in which a psychiatrist, the state's Assistant Attorney General, the lawyer who successfully defended *Tropic of Cancer*, and the chairman of the Commission on Obscene Literature Control took part. Said BU law professor Robert B. Kent, moderator, "The freedom of speech versus community interest requires the most delicate balance." The panel could not agree whether

any statistics have proved or disproved that books, films, or plays do corrupt. Until there's general concurrence on how dirty dirt can be, some lawyers feel, booksellers and theatre-owners may just have to stand, wait and then, perhaps, be prepared to go to court.

On 28 April a newly formed Committee to Invite Community Expression met in Newark to discuss the sale of certain books and publications which the local CDL deemed objectionable. Controversy also centered around a certificate awarded by CDL to "cooperating merchants," a procedure which the CICE considered to be an unwarranted economic boycott. Members of the North Jersey Committee for the Right to Read were also present, but the CDL declined CICE's invitation.

The Gastonia, NORTH CAROLINA, PTA, which has been studying the problem of allegedly obscene literature for more than a year, eschewing censorship as both unwise and impracticable, has come up with a novel program, to be instituted in fall with the cooperation of local churches. "We are going to take some of the filth," said Central School principal R. M. Howard, "and put it on display—a sort of layout. And together with it we'll have samples of the wealth of good reading material. We'll photograph both, publish a brochure, distribute it through the church, publicize it, let everyone know—and learn how to make a choice." The PTA committee is convinced that such a program will result in no money loss to any merchant. They believe that the exercise of choice, once consciously begun, can lead in only one direction—toward more and more reading and discovery and more and more purchases from the rich store of good publications available at the same sources.

National Library Week was celebrated at the Dayton and Montgomery County Public Library on 16 April with an open meeting on Obscenity and the Law which was addressed by Cleveland attorney Jack G. Day, member of the Cleveland and Ohio ACLU boards of directors; and by J. Patrick Conroy of Cincinnati, national CDL vice-chairman.

The issue of Sanctions on Obscenity was debated on 7 May in Toledo at the Jewish Community Center by University of Toledo Professor of Law Robert Affeldt and ACLU Executive Director John de J. Pemberton, Jr. Meeting was sponsored by ACLU's Toledo chapter.

Associate Professor of Library Science Dorothy Bendix moderated a discussion of book censorship by two graduate and two undergraduate students at the Library Center of the Drexel Institute of Technology on 15 April, in connection with Drexel's celebration of National Library Week.

"Banning Books" was the subject of a panel discussion at the Elmira, NEW YORK, Steele Memorial Library on 21 April under the sponsorship of the Friends of the Library. Participants were Elmira College professor of philosophy Thomas G. Robischon, Chemung County DA Paul H. McCabe, Methodist minister Rev. Gerald F. Harris, and Steele young adult librarian, Mrs. Katherine K. Scott.

"Book Censorship" was the subject of a special TV program on 21 April on WMHT, Schenectady. Town of Nassau magistrate and Albany Law School instructor Morris J. Zweig spoke in favor, while Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute associate professor of anthropology Edward LeClair, Jr. presented the case against.

New York City's WEVD-Radio's University Forum of the Air on 8 May discussed the topic, "Should Pornographic Books Be Suppressed?" Our source does not state sides, but panel members were: Osmond K. Fraenkel, ACLU; and Murray Rudman, Penalties Division, Corporation Counsel's Office, NYC.

Quote from National Library Week address by novelist and historian Shelby Foote on 16 April at White Station, TENNESSEE, high school: "Too many men distrust books in the first place. You have to be on guard against such men getting into positions where they can control what we read."

During National Library Week, playwright Elmer Rice addressed a Town Hall meeting in Milwaukee on Censorship and the Freedom to Read on 13 April. In addition to expressing his general and complete opposition to censorship, he predicted that Wisconsin's laws on obscenity would one day be declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court on grounds of vagueness.

And on 8 May the Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English, meeting in Milwaukee, adopted an anti-censorship resolution which reads as follows: "Intellectual freedom is essential for the education of citizens of a democratic society. Students must have the experience of selecting information and organizing it in order to learn to draw intelligent conclusions. They should have the opportunity to use reading materials from a wide range of sources and points of view."

Post Office Censors Challenged by Union

The ACLU has filed a complaint in Federal District Court in New York City challenging the constitutionality of a law under which the Post Office censors unsealed mail from 26 foreign countries. Such mail is routed to the Customs Bureau which determines whether it should be labeled "Communist political propaganda" and returns it to the Post Office, which then sends a card asking the addressee to indicate whether he wants the mail delivered. If he replies affirmatively, it is delivered; if he answers no or fails to reply within 60 days, the mail is destroyed.

The relevant law was passed by Congress in 1962 despite opposition by President Kennedy, the Post Office Department, the Justice Department, the National Security Council—and the ACLU.

The Union's complaint in which the NYCLU joined, was filed on behalf of David McReynolds, and charges that the law violates constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and press "by interfering with plaintiff's right to receive expressions of political opinion and to consider them freely without government interference, and with his right to communicate opinion." A Cuban publication, *The Crusader*, had been detained and not delivered to Mr. McReynolds.—*Civil Liberties*, April.

Bias Discovered in Mother Goose

A 1917 edition of the Mother Goose rhymes in the children's section of the New London, Conn., Public Library will be withdrawn because it has objectionable references to Negroes.

Any similar copies of children's books also will be withdrawn, said Mrs. Olive Prentis, acting librarian, when informed on 29 May the New London chapter of the NAACP is seeking the removal of the books.

She said no complaint has been made to her and that she and her staff were unaware of the rhymes. "Now that I know, I will do something about it," she said.

The copy in question has two rhymes which contain the word "nigger." The rhymes are "Eeny, meeny, miny, mo" and "Ten little niggers." The latter rhyme is a version of one better known as "Ten Little Indians." The NAACP terms them "insulting, degrading, offensive and just plain passe, and not in keeping with the times."

It was reported a 10-year-old Negro girl took the book out on loan and came across the rhymes. She showed them to her mother who relayed them to chapter president Linwood W. Bland, Jr. Bland commented he would expect to find books with prejudicial references in the adult section "but for children to see them is too much."

Censorship Assailed as Dangerous

Censorship of books and other reading material is a danger which must be avoided, Kiwanis Club members were told on 8 April. The speaker was Ray Embree, librarian of the Ross County Library and chairman of the Ohio Library Assn. IFC.

Embree noted that the size of the reading public is growing steadily, and attributed the growth to the larger number of high school and college graduates. But, he warned, this growth apparently has not pushed aside the ideas of some people that certain books, for various reasons, are not suitable for adults and especially children to read. Embree said censorship tends to revolve around two areas, politics and morals.

The librarian commented that certain individuals and groups constantly are striving to eliminate books that explain forms of government and political ideas other than what we believe. He called this dangerous, saying that if we are to fight the foes of democracy, we should be allowed to read and understand their systems. Embree declared that such censorship is a direct attack on civil liberties and a violation of the First Amendment to the Constitution.

In interviewing inmates at the reformatory at Chillicothe, where he was formerly the librarian, Embree said he found that few ever had read a book completely and that most had never read books that some of the censor groups claim are injurious to youth. He told Kiwanians that parents should encourage their children to read a large variety of books, and added that such a practice is the best protection for the nation's youth.

The speaker was introduced by Robert Hazeltine, librarian of Portsmouth Public Library.—*Portsmouth Times*, 9 April.

Challenges to College Freedom

Th question of whether a Negro Communist, James Jackson, editor of the Daily Worker, should speak on New England college campuses has been churning up staid old New Hampshire. It also highlights some of the problems of university freedom.

When Jackson was invited by New Hampshire University students, it brought the vitriolic opposition of New England's No. 1 McCarthyite, Bill Loeb of the Manchester Union Leader, a Republican, plus the less shrill opposition of lottery-loving Governor John King, a Democrat.

But President John W. McConnell of the University stood pat for the right of students to hear every side of any problem, and the faculty vigorously supported him. In the end, the board of governors was called in, including the blue-blooded Bostonian, Sinclair Weeks, Secretary of Commerce in the Eisenhower Administration, and Mrs. Mildred McAfee Horton, former Commander of the Waves. After some debate the board voted unanimously for freedom of speech.

The Communist Negro editor came to New Hampshire and, thanks to advance discussion, was heard by an audience about three times as great as the normal student lecture. There were no incidents.

There has been a lot of talk lately about right-wingism on college campuses, also a lot of talk about left-wing movement. This writer, who has visited a good many colleges from San Diego State to Plymouth (N. H.) State during the past year, has found neither. There is, however, a healthy student desire to dig into the state of the world and champion the right of free speech.

One champion of free speech is Arthur Fleming who was a member of the Eisenhower Cabinet. As president of the University of Oregon, Fleming permitted Gus Hall, head of the American Communist party, to speak on Oregon's campus.

Another member of the Eisenhower official family was not so tolerant. Former Vice President Richard Nixon excoriated Governor Brown of California when Hall spoke to a gathering off, not on, the University of California campus in Berkeley.

Meanwhile, Hall, representing the left, and Governor George Wallace of Alabama, representing the right, have spoken at various campuses, ranging from Yale to Swarthmore.—Drew Pearson, 3 May.

On With the Show

"This show depicts the Negro as a foot-shuffling handkerchief-head," snapped Chicago Urban League Director Edwin Berry. "A lazy, soft-shoe jokester is an insult," added Joan Kehoe, of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Both groups planned protests, and it looked like check and double check for *Amos 'n' Andy*, the radio duo born in Chicago in 1928, whose return in a filmed CBS television series had been announced by Chicago station WCIU. However, WCIU's President John Weigel is no man to get regusted. "When you try to expurge folklore," he retorted, "it's a bad situation, comparable to book burning in Nazi Germany." On with the show.—*Time*, 5 June.

Walter Winchell Says . . .

What is your reaction to recent court rulings banning so-called obscene books?

Censorship is more dangerous than obscenity. Actually, censorship is always negative. The people should accept the responsibility for freedom rather than depend on state-established standards of good and evil. If the people are wise enough to choose their leaders—they should be intelligent enough to pick their books.—10 May.

'Way Down Yonder in New Orleans'

The New Orleans Public Library is officially de-segregated; but Negroes and whites do not sit at the same tables in the reading-rooms, and, while Negro borrowers may charge out books through white librarians, white borrowers are served only by white librarians.—Marvin M. Karpatkin in *New Republic*.

Dear Marvin:

I read your piece in the May 23 *New Republic*. Look, Marvin, we have enough trouble from our critics. Should we expect it from our friends? Permit me some small corrections.

You say, ". . . while Negro borrowers may charge out books through white librarians, white borrowers are served only by white librarians." That is correct—in the Main Library. In two branches which serve approximately 50-50 neighborhoods the librarians in charge are Negro. So Marvin, The New Orleans Public library does have Negro librarians who serve white patrons. Why didn't you ask? And while you are at it, find us some trained librarians for the system. Our pigmentation tester is broken so we are reduced to selecting our staff according to the old fashioned methods of ability, experience, and personality.

You also said . . . "but Negroes and whites do not sit at the same tables in the reading rooms . . ." The statement is not accurate. It's too bad it wasn't happening the few minutes you were in the library. Your statement, besides being inaccurate, gives the wrong impression of our library.

I make no extravagant claims for the New Orleans Public Library, but it is considered by some who know to be one important bulwark of freedom in our fair city. Bob Collins, Nils Douglas, Lolis Elie, A. P. Tureau could have told you. Why didn't you ask?

Your straight reporting put us in the same basket with the "other" New Orleans. So you wanted to depict Way Down Yonder in New Orleans. As far as our part in the article is concerned you succeeded in placing a little blemish on the one institution where literally hundreds of Negro young people come every week for study. And because our staff understands the true meaning of professional library service it makes special efforts to produce an atmosphere of welcome for all patrons, Negro and white.

Since coming to New Orleans I've spent too much time trying to repair little holes in the dike inadvertently made by our well-meaning friends, but you'll be happy to know that we're doing better every day.

Sincerely,
Jerome Cushman, Librarian

Challenge of 'Tropic of Cancer' in Lansing Continues

I

A smoldering battle between the Lansing Board of Education and the Ingham county prosecutor over a book in the public library moved into Circuit Court Monday.

Leo A. Farhat, prosecutor, filed a civil suit against the school board for a court determination of the obscenity or non-obscenity of the book *Tropic of Cancer*, by Henry Miller.

The book has been a subject of controversy and court tests in several other states in recent years. Monday's action is believed to be the first court test of the book in Michigan.

In starting the suit Farhat said:

"This office is well aware of the highly emotional reactions which may result from this action. It fully expects to hear cries of 'censorship' and 'book burner' from many. Indeed, these cries would be raised by some whatever the nature of the printed matter which was made a subject of this type of action.

"But this office is also well aware of its duties under the laws of the state of Michigan. One of these duties is to prevent obscene matter from being distributed within this state. That is the purpose of this action."

Farhat said he believed court actions in other states on this book involved mostly individual distributors. This suit may mark a precedent since it involves a public library.

Battle over the book started last July when the Lansing police department, in a letter to Lansing's school superintendent, requested that the book be removed from circulation because it is in violation of state obscene literature laws.

The matter was brought before the board informally in a closed meeting last July 1. It was announced the next day that the board informally agreed to refuse the police request.

School board members indicated at the time that while they were not favorable toward contents of the book, they would not submit to an outside agency regarding literature in the public library.

The tussle has continued intermittently since that time with written exchanges between the prosecutor and the board. Police dropped out of the contest and turned the matter over to the prosecutor.

Last November, Vernon D. Ebersol, board president, said that no court in Michigan has yet ruled on the book and indicated the board would not change its position until such a decision is made in Michigan courts.

In his comments Monday, Farhat said the school board has expressed the opinion that the public library differs from the general distributors of books and other reading material.

He continued "Evidently, the board felt that, because the library is made up of people who have various numbers of years of education in literature or library science, the library is staffed with experts who are more able than others to decide what books should be distributed and to whom, and should be excepted from the obscenity laws of the state."

Farhat said his action was not lightly taken and is based on a thorough study of the state statute on obscene literature, a review of the book itself, a study of actions in other states and comments of book critics throughout the nation.

The prosecutor conceded suit will not be a popular action in some quarters but argued that his office has a duty (under the statute) "not only to protect the minds and morals of the people of this state, but to halt at its inception this attempt to promulgate a theory that experts are above the laws and courts of this state."

Dr. Forrest G. Averill, superintendent, said Tuesday he had no comment to make regarding the suit but stated a previous position that the book in question is restricted to adults only in its circulation through the public library and the Community College library.

He repeated that it is his position and that of school board members that an outside agency should not be allowed to determine contents of a public library.

In his suit Farhat asked for a court determination on the question of obscenity and if such a determination is made against the book, that the court issue an injunction against the school board to halt any future distribution or loaning of the book through the public library.—Robert Stuart in *The State Journal*, 28 April.

II

A pending court test over the presence of an allegedly obscene book in Lansing's public library could set a precedent for the state of Michigan and may bring in some hot side issues.

Leo A. Farhat, Ingham county prosecutor, filed the civil law suit against the Lansing Board of Education last week, asking for a court determination on the obscenity or non-obscenity of the book "Tropic of Cancer."

Farhat contends it is obscene within the meaning of the Michigan obscene literature statutes and general guidelines on this subject made by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Board of Education members have indicated they don't think much of the book either but have stated they won't allow outside agencies, including the police department or the prosecutor, to determine what books will be kept in the public library.

Requests for removal of the book were made by Lansing police and Farhat. Both were refused by the board. Farhat said the only alternative was a court test of the issue.

The book has been before the courts in several other states and all involved individual distributors. This is believed to be the first court test involving a public library—at least on this particular book.

And therein lies one of the major side issues.

The book, according to Lansing police, has been withheld from public newstands in Lansing by distributors at request of the police.

It is reported that distributors are dissatisfied with this situation because the book remains in the library for public circulation while it can't be put on public stands.

On the other hand there is the argument that a public library should not be subjected to screening by outside agencies or citizen committees in determining quality of books going into the library as opposed to

Fraud!

A Federal grand jury in Baltimore indicted three men on mail fraud charges for NOT selling obscene literature. James Fulter, Milton Streifel and Daniel Derito offered to sell obscene books, playing cards, and other such materials through the mails, but the materials didn't live up to the seller's claims, the indictment said.—Washington *Neds*, 25 March.

what may or may not appear on newsstands.

Farhat says professional librarians can't be the sole judges when the issue of obscenity is involved.

There is the situation also wherein some people may feel the book in question is obscene. There are others who do not think so. Lansing school officials contend that circulation of the book is limited to adults only.

Farhat, along with many others, feel the line must be drawn somewhere on the question of obscene materials made available to the public.—*Ibid*, 3 May.

Controversial Speakers OK in Berkeley

By a 4-1 vote the Berkeley, California, Board of Education on 21 April established a policy of "free inquiry and discussion, without disqualification of anyone because of his organizational affiliations or the unpopularity of his views." The policy statement grew out of a controversy generated when Mickey Lima, Northern California Communist official, was denied permission to speak to two student political groups after class hours by Berkeley High School Principal Emery Curtice. Spokesmen for the Socialist and Democratic clubs were joined by Curtice in asking the Board of Education for a statement of policy, which reads as follows:

"The board looks to the superintendent, the other administrators and the responsible faculty members to determine the competence of any person to speak, and all speakers, other than District personnel, must have prior written approval from the responsible administrative officer.

"The competence of the speaker shall be determined in the light of the basic policy of the district to promote free inquiry and discussion of controversial subjects.

"The administrative personnel shall be responsible for providing a reasonable balance, during the course of the school year, in the presentation of opposing points of view on high controversial subjects.

"In the case of meetings at which attendance is compulsory, a student will be excused from attendance upon presentation of a written statement from his parent or guardian declaring that the student or the parent or guardian has a conscientious objection to the subject matter to be presented.

"In the case of meetings at which attendance is voluntary, the administrative officials might in their discretion require written permission to attend from the parent or guardian, if it appears that the controversial nature of the meeting might seriously offend a substantial number of parents."

July, 1964

Negro Students Arrested in Attempt To Use Library in Louisiana

Groups of Negro students were locked out on March 7 in two Louisiana towns and one group was arrested in a third town as they attempted to use "white only" public parish libraries there.

Small parties of four and five students attempted to enter downtown libraries in St. Francisville, Clinton, and Greensberg, La. The three libraries are branches of the Audubon Regional Library and are operated by a tri-parish board. According to a press release from the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), "White citizens have used the public library facilities freely for years while Negro readers have been restricted to one book-mobile which serves all three parishes. However, tax money paid by Negro citizens of the three parishes is used to support the library. The students have vowed to continue their efforts until the library is open."

In St. Francisville and Greensberg, the library was locked when the students arrived, and a "closed" sign was in the window. The libraries are not normally closed on Saturdays.

In Clinton, sheriff's deputies seized five students after they entered the library. All five were arrested and charged with disturbing the peace. They are still, as this is written, in jail, and bond has not yet been set.

The library attempts come as part of a concerted effort by Negro citizens in East Feliciana, West Feliciana, and St. Helena parishes to win their constitutional rights. The three parishes are the scene of an intensive voter registration drive.

One other person who was put in jail as "a material witness" in connection with the attempt to use the Clinton library was Miriam Feingold daughter of Elizabeth Feingold who is a district librarian in the Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library. Miss Feingold, who is working for CORE in the voter registration drive, was not even in Clinton when the incident took place.

Writing to her mother on the day the arrests took place, Miss Feingold said: "The library action took place today . . . and here are some more details. St. Francisville is where recently the first Negro registered in 61 years, and where Negro applicants in October (when the first man registered) were met at the courthouse by a mob of white men with guns and knives who threatened to use them. Later that week, night riders shot at the homes of several applicants, and beat a couple over the head with a rifle butt. Today, when the kids went down, they found the library locked up, and the sheriff sitting in front of it waiting for them. So they came over to Clinton. Meanwhile, in Greensberg, slightly better than Clinton or St. Francisville, the kids were also locked out. They went home and will try again later. Here in Clinton, five students entered the library and within five minutes they were out again, under arrest by a sheriff's deputy. They will stay in jail until their trial."

Miss Feingold adds, in her letter, "Any word that you can get out to the ALA will be much appreciated. The people down here need to feel the pressure."—*LJ*, 15 April.

"Until the psychologists offer convincing evidence to the contrary, I will continue to operate on the assumption that a person should be permitted to read anything in which his development level and experience create an interest."—J. Maurice Travilian, Extension Librarian, Daniel Boone Regional Library, Columbia, Missouri, in *LJ*, 15 April.

Arcadia Voters Oppose Charter Change

As an aftermath of last year's controversy over *The Last Temptation of Christ* in Arcadia, California, three candidates for the city council in the Spring election ran on a platform involving a change in the city's charter which would have replaced the present administratively independent library board with a board under the direct control of the city council. In the election on April 14, although one of two council positions was secured by a candidate for the charter change, the total number of votes cast for candidates opposing a charter change was significantly greater. Votes cast for candidates opposing the charter change totaled 10,111, while votes cast for candidates for a charter change totaled 7,166. The successful candidates were Robert J. Considine and George L. Forman, Mr. Considine being for a change, and Mr. Forman against. The campaign was marked by the distribution of literature so scurrilously against the library, it was editorially rebutted point for point in the local press, and repudiated by the candidates involved.

An Ethical Question

Johanna C. Van Rooy, 2 Hoffman Street, Potchefstroom, S. Africa, writes:

In the *Record* for August, 1963, Sigrid Hill ends the review of *The public library in South Africa*, by T. Friis:

"One must also ask—as Dr. Friis does *not*—how healthy a library service can be in a country which bans books by authors of national and international repute such as Hemingway, Sartre and Nadine Gordimer . . . and which can pass a bill such as the Publications and Entertainments Act of 1963."

Is South Africa the *only* country with censorship laws? Which books by Gordimer have been banned? I know of one title, viz., *World of Strangers* and that only in paperback form. Will any library be so much the poorer when it stocks all Hemingway's books except *Across the River and Into the Trees*?

I regard it as most unprofessional and as a serious breach of our ethical code to cast a slur on the quality of a country's library service on such flimsy evidence. It is a deplorable fact that too many librarians are too much concerned about politics. What has the above uncalled for statement got to do with a reviewer's *unprejudiced* opinion on a library publication in a journal of standing?

Traditionally we in the library profession in South Africa esteem the Library Association highly, and prejudiced judgment and other similar statements like those in the above extract certainly do not add to good relations and high repute.—*LA Record*, February.

Freedom To Read

To the Tribune: As librarians we take exception to a statement printed in the April 16 issue of the Tribune attributed to Mrs. Virginia Shackelford. She says that hiding anti-Communist books is a deliberate policy of the American Library Ass'n.

The ALA has long fought for intellectual freedom which implies that material on library shelves does not necessarily reflect the views of the library staff. Many librarians handle books with which they personally disagree, which they consider to be in bad taste, which promote political views not their own, and which advocate things which are inimical to their way of life. As a group they believe that all sides of an issue are entitled to an airing.

No doubt Mrs. Shackelford can find more than one library which does "put anti-Communist books on back shelves" but if her experience is as wide as she claims, then she has no doubt found that the majority of libraries do not operate this way.

It is easy enough to say that the ALA suppresses anti-Communist literature. It is something else to document this charge. The American Library Ass'n. co-sponsors National Library Week. Last year its informational brochures featured a joint statement from former Presidents Hoover and Truman which said in part, "We Americans know that if freedom means anything, it means the right to think. And the right to think means the right to read—anything written anywhere by any man at any time." If Mrs. Shackelford's remarks about the American Library Ass'n. were true that organization would certainly not promulgate statements such as this.

DAN MATHER
STAN SHEPARD
RICHARD J. BECK

(Letter to editor of Lewiston, Idaho *Tribune* 26 April)

CIA Concerned over Book

Two top officials of the Central Intelligence Agency have contacted Random House in an apparent effort to suppress or censor a book due to be published about United States secret intelligence operations, the Minneapolis *Tribune* reported on 9 June.

In a Washington dispatch written by correspondent Charles W. Bailey, the *Tribune* said a Random House spokesman confirmed that both CIA Director John McCone and CIA Deputy Director Lieutenant General Marshall S. Carter, complained about the book, *The Invisible Government*, scheduled to go to press this month.

Authors of the book are Washington newsmen David Wise and Thomas Ross. It deals with secret operations of U. S. intelligence, including the CIA's role in the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

The Random House source said McCone and Carter contended publication of the book would be harmful to national security, but did not claim that its publication would violate any security classification of information.

ACLU Charges Post Office with Censoring Mail within the U. S.

The American Civil Liberties Union charged last month that the Post Office is censoring not only alleged "Communist political propaganda" from 26 countries abroad but domestic mail as well. In moving to dismiss the Union's complaint, Assistant U. S. Attorney Eugene R. Anderson acknowledged that there had been some screening of such mail between points in the United States.

A revised complaint filed by the ACLU on April 9 cites the case of a Cambridge, Mass., sociologist whose book purchases from a New York City bookstore were detained by Post Office officials as "Communist political propaganda."

According to the Union's revised complaint, the books purchased on December 28, 1963, by Fritz Pappenheim—a Fellow of the American Sociological Society, an author, and a lecturer—included such titles as *Dialectics of Nature* by Friedrich Engels, *The First Philosophers* by George Derwent Thomson, and *Letters from China* by Anna Louise Strong.

A few days after he had told the bookseller to mail his books from New York to his Cambridge home, Mr. Pappenheim received a postcard instructing him to state whether he wished to receive this "Communist political propaganda." He wrote Robert K. Christenberry, the New York Postmaster under whose name the card was sent, requesting further information. No answer was received, although on March 6 the books were delivered to his home.—*Civil Liberties*, May.

Why Not 'The Other Side'?

Our first reaction after hearing that Ku Klux Klan leader James Venable had been invited to speak to a history class at Tucker High School was one of dismay and disgust.

However, after thinking it over we can see little wrong with occasionally hearing "the other side" presented.

Controversial books and controversial speakers have been removed from the American education scene to the extent that our children are getting one-sided educations.

Life is a very real thing and it is often shocking to discover later in adulthood that there are people who actually believe the way Mr. Venable believes.

The illogical and frequently illiterate arguments which are presented at Klan gatherings are enough to convince anyone with average intelligence to look for additional facts before adopting the ideas presented at such meetings.

Freedom of speech and the right to orderly assembly are basic and fundamental in this country. Sometimes we are inclined to feel that only one side of the picture is good for us, or our children.

Assorted viewpoints form more accurate opinions. And we can see no reason why advanced high school students should not be permitted to hear "the other fellow's" side of American history or any other subject, as long as it is done on a voluntary, rather than mandatory basis.—*Decatur-DeKalb*, Ga., *News*, 8 April.

July, 1964

"I would not recommend *Lolita* to a 12-year-old girl any more than I would give her the Nancy Drew series, but I would pay respectful attention to her comments on either and would use all my ingenuity to guide her into a more wholesome book diet."—Sarah Law Kennerly, Professor of Library Science, North Texas State University, Denton, in *LJ*, 15 April.

That Dictionary

Readers will recall that the Upland, California, library board removed the *Dictionary of American Slang* from the public library on the epistolary protest of five (5) citizens. The battle was similarly continued on 7 May with the publication in *The Upland News* of a letter to the editor from Mrs. Rupert J. Deese stating she was presenting a copy of the dictionary to the Library. Her long letter to the library board, an admirable defense of the freedom to read, is published also, and concludes with this paragraph: "If you do not accept the book, I respectfully request that you state your reasons in writing."

The People's Constitutional Right To the Truth

Soviet censorship of U. S. news is moving closer to reality, according to a step-by-step program exposed by columnist Edith Kermit Roosevelt. If Moscow's aims are successful, no derogatory information about Communism would appear in U. S. news media. Intellectuals in big Foundations and in government promote this plan through international conferences and subsidized books aimed at conditioning public opinion. Some Legislators in Congress are enlisted in the plan, while most of them are brought in line through one-sided information and "planted" assistants for Congressmen. Under the Moscow proposal, the American press would tell only what the Soviets call their "truth about Communism"—a version quite acceptable to some "sophisticated" people in Washington. The federal government's highhanded methods of controlling, managing and censoring news has reached an alarming degree in recent years. Its attitude was best summed up during the missile crisis in Cuba, when Defense Department's Arthur Sylvester declared that the government has a "right to lie." The new head of the U. S. Intelligence Agency is Carl T. Rowan, who is on record as saying: "While the public does have a right to know, it also has a right not to know." Mr. Rowan has stated that the government is not always obligated to tell what it knows. He has sent a "press guidance" memorandum to American officials in South Vietnam suggesting that "newsmen should not be transported to military activities of the type that are likely to result in undesirable stories." (It will be interesting to see how Mr. Rowan, a negro, chooses to tell the world the story of racial conflict in the United States.) (*References*: The Freedom Press, Los Angeles 17, California, April 15, 1964; Congressional Record, Jan. 23, 1964; the Lynchburg (Va.) News, Feb. 4, 1964.)—*Network of Patriotic Letter Writers*, May.

Forum Asks Kerr To Halt Shah Speech

The ASUC Forum unanimously passed a resolution Thursday asking President Clark Kerr to withdraw his invitation to the Shah of Iran to speak at UCLA Commencement exercises in June.

The resolution, sponsored by the Iranian Students Association, also suggested a debate between a representative of the Iranian students and the Iranian General Consul in San Francisco, Javad Kowsar.

The debate resolution was the result of Kowsar's statements defending the Shah and calling the accusations by the Iranian students "baseless and ridiculous."

In response to the pleas of the Iranian students that the Shah is an absolute dictator, not deserving of academic honor, over 1,200 students and 50 faculty members have signed a petition asking Kerr to withdraw his invitation to the Shah. Kerr did not.

Censorship in Mt. Pleasant

It was with a heavy heart that we read last week of the decision of the principal of the Mt. Pleasant Joint School System to ban three books—*The Catcher in the Rye, 1984* and *Brave New World*.

It is ironic that the action smacks of Big Brotherism—the very heart of the plot of "1984."

And it is tragic that the decision to remove at least one of the books—*The Catcher in the Rye*—was apparently made on the strength of one telephone call objecting to the book.

If school policy is to be determined by one telephone call we wonder what would happen should a second parent complain about the order to ban the book?

Chester Tepper, who made the decision to ban the books, said he did so despite the fact he believes them to be good literature, "well written and provocative."

But, he added, "The three books are filled with sex primarily" and because of this "are not the type of books most 15, 16 and 17 year olds should read."

This is pure nonsense. In the first place the books are not "filled with sex primarily." Certainly the books contain references to sex, but if Mt. Pleasant school children are to read only those books which do not mention sex they aren't going to be doing much reading during their years in high school.

Of course, if this reasoning prevails the question of Bible reading in the class room has been resolved for the Bible, too, contains references to sex.

Would Mr. Tepper prefer to have these youngsters learn about sex in the back alleys or through the medium of "good literature?" And does he seriously believe there is anything related to sex in these three books most youngsters of 15, 16 and 17 don't already know? Surely he must observe, on occasion, boys and girls walking hand-in-hand through the halls. They're not thinking about algebra.

The principal is also quoted as saying, in effect, the three books treat the society in which we live in such a way that students might tend to question it. For example, they tend to compare communism with democracy and atheism with Christianity in such a way as to cause high school students to question the values we as a society have set up.

This is the weakest excuse for book banning we've ever come across. Does Principal Tepper believe that democracy is so weak it cannot stand comparison with communism? Does he believe Christianity cannot stand comparison with atheism?

Does he believe any one can really be educated without asking questions and making comparisons?

At another point in the interview, Principal Tepper responded to a question as to whether not reading these books might handicap a college bound student by saying: Not reading three books will not hurt any student.

It may not hurt "any student" in Mt. Pleasant High School, but we know of several institutions of higher learning that will require the graduate read the books prior to granting admission.

Censorship is a repudiation of all the things Principal Tepper apparently believes in and seeks to protect. We hope he will reconsider his stand and we hope his superiors who must assume ultimate responsibility, will find some avenue which will permit Mr. Tepper to retreat without loss of dignity.

We don't enjoy spotlighting an obvious error, particularly since it was apparently made in good faith.

But censorship cannot and should not, be tolerated in a free society.—Greensburg, Pa. *Tribune-Review*, 7 April

Notes from Abroad

Sheffield magistrates on April 15 found that *Cain's Book*, Alexander Trocchi's novel published by John Calder, was obscene, and ordered that a copy seized from a Sheffield shop should be destroyed. John Calder, who had intervened in the case, stated immediately afterwards that they intended to appeal.—*The Bookseller*, 18 April.

At Manchester City Magistrates Court, C. Nicholls & Co., printers, appeared on a summons to show why 3,116 bound copies, 720 unbound copies and 38,000 sections of *Fanny Hill* should not be forfeited. The publishers, Mayflower books, intervened in the case. The book was ruled obscene on 20 April.

In Denmark the city court of Copenhagen acquitted the publishers, Thaning & Appel, who printed 100 copies of *Fanny Hill* in a Danish translation in order to start a test prosecution, of charges of attempting to publish obscene matter. This reversed a ban on sales of the book the same court imposed in 1956 when copies published by the Olympia Press in Paris were imported into Denmark.

The Indian Government's ban on *Peking versus Delhi*, by George N. Patterson, was adopted at length in the Indian parliament in April. The ban prohibits the sale or distribution of the book, and declares that all copies, including those in private hands, must be surrendered to the police. Debate did not affect the ban, nor has the ban affected the wide availability and popularity of the book.

The New Zealand tribunal which has been considering the case of James Baldwin's *Another Country* has given its reserved judgment, and pronounced the book not obscene.—*The Bookseller*, 21 March.

Bermuda on 22 May imposed its first ban on books: *Fanny Hill*, *Tropic of Cancer*, and *Tropic of Capricorn*. Under Bermuda law, it is now an offense to possess the books.

Rye and Sky in School

A petition containing 216 signatures protesting *Catcher in the Rye* being on the reading list for English classes at Placer Union High School in Auburn, CALIFORNIA, was presented early in April to the school board at a hearing on the book attended by 150 persons, some of whom defended the book for its literary qualities.—*Sacramento Union*, 17 April.

A committee of 15 Los Angeles English teachers and librarians were asked on 24 April to determine whether *Catcher in the Rye* is trash or literature and whether it is suitable for high school use. This was the upshot of a heated exchange between school board president Georgiana Hardy and board member Charles Reed Smoot. Rhubarb started with a parental protest to Smoot over a Grant High School teacher's request that a female student engage in a panel discussion of the book. Supt. of Schools Jack P. Crowther stopped the discussion, and defended the teacher for not knowing that the book had not been approved five years ago for inclusion on high school library shelves or use in the classroom. It is allowed on the shelves of the junior college libraries.

Controversy over *Catcher in the Rye* spread to Glendora, California, where it was revealed on 27 March that an electronics technician has been waging a quiet campaign against the presence of the book in the high school library. Bert East said he had gone through the required procedure for challenging materials, that a district committee had cleared the book, so he was taking it to the School Board. Superintendent W. Del Walker noted the District had only the one copy, that it had been purchased before his term of office, that no one was required to read it, and that "One teacher had it on a supplemental reading list, but it was starred so that parental approval was required before a student could read it." No direct report of action has come to hand, but decision of the school board to retain the book in the high school library was censured on 13 April by the Upper Valley Young Republicans.

We don't know precisely where, but somewhere in the reading area of the Kalispell, MONTANA, *Interlake*, the FCHS has banned A. B. Guthrie's *The Big Sky*. We gather this from a letter to the editor (23 April) from David Swanberg, Librarian of Lincoln County High School in Eureka. Says Swanberg: "As a school librarian I feel vitally concerned and deplore the weak-kneed action of the curriculum committee and English Department in banning *The Big Sky*, a work of literary merit." His published concern may have had an effect, for the *Billings Gazette* reported on 29 April that the book had been taken off the required reading list at Flathead County High School, but remains intact in the school library.

In a story about the alleged censorship of the Madison, WISCONSIN, *Capitol Times* from school libraries in Elroy, it was revealed in that paper on 24 March that *Mister Roberts* had been removed from library shelves in March, 1963 by Superintendent of Schools Allen Schraufnagel at the request of a local minister, because of allegedly obscene passages. "We don't have a hard and fast rule, and I don't think we ought to have one. We have never prevented any specific text or book

from being placed on the shelves with the exception of such books as *Tropic of Cancer*." Schraufnagel declined to define pornography, but said he would continue to eliminate from library shelves books with passages as descriptive as those in *Mister Roberts*.

Legion of Decency Censors Picture

A new halo over Hollywood?

It could be in the making on the heels of a sudden crackdown on the industry's recent output by the Roman Catholic Bishops Committee for Motion Pictures and Television. Excited whispers are being heard around plush studio corridors where the ground rules are written to suit the mood of the times.

One of the most interesting early developments centers around "The Carpetbaggers." How the big movie that Hollywood feared would become its most controversial was laundered only a few days ago to correspond with Legion of Decency standards was revealed by a functionary at Paramount Studio who sat in on the sessions.

The Joseph E. Levine production of the bawdy best-seller based on the fantastic life and career of a mostly fictional Hollywood tycoon, had been in a continuous hassle with the ineptly-enforced regulations of the morals code administration from the moment it started filming last fall. Perversion, rape, nudity, strong sex overtones and longshoreman-type dialog cluttered the book and they were saying that the outgoing Levine, a virtual newcomer to Hollywood pastures, would treat the film with hardly less delicacy.

"If this stuff gets on the street," whistled one of its stars, "it will blow the town and the business sky high."

When "The Carpetbaggers" finally was completed, word went out that the code couldn't stand up to Levine, that he had won a complete victory. And no denials came from the code office.

So Hollywood and the industry at large held its breath when Levine moved in on Denver April 8 for his first press unveiling. When the reviews got out it was feared that a mighty wave of indignation would sweep the land.

But—nothing of the sort happened. "The Carpetbaggers," flashed on the screen and for two hours, offered solid, interesting entertainment — rough and rugged, of course, but apparently no more "adult" or suggestive than many others in the current parade of breathtakers from Hollywood.

What happened? The explanation came, quietly, from a Levine aide. "The Carpetbaggers," it seems, had been de-filthed at the "suggestion" of the legion of decency. And the church group had achieved a victory were the morals code operators had failed. Here is the behind-the-scenes story from the unnamed studio man:

"We screened the picture in advance for the legion representatives, as all studios do, and they submitted a list of scenes and dialog considered objectionable. We met a day later, went over them and agreed to all the changes. It was as simple as that."—NANA, 22 May.

CDL and NODL Linked

Pine Bluff, ARKANSAS, Chancellor Joseph Morrison on 29 April issued a permanent restraining order against the sale of the following magazines: *Gent*, *Swank*, *Modern Man*, *Bachelor*, *Cavalcade*, *Gentleman*, *Ace*, and *Sir*. An all-male jury, first ever empaneled for a chancery court hearing in Jefferson County, deliberated only 25 minutes before bringing in a verdict that all of the magazines are obscene under Arkansas Act 261 of 1961.

Sanford Aday and Wallace Maxey, free on \$85,000 bail after conviction on obscene book charges in Grand Rapids, Michigan, must stand trial on conspiracy charges in Alameda County, CALIFORNIA, under a state District Court of Appeals ruling on 21 April, which reversed Alameda County Superior Judge Donald Quayle's 1961 dismissal of a felony indictment against Aday, Maxey, Jack A. Lindsay, Louis Swift and Matthew J. Meehan. Quayle dismissed the indictment on the ground warrants used in seizing some evidence were defective. The appellate court, in its unanimous opinion written by Justice John B. Molinari, said there was nevertheless sufficient evidence before the Grand Jury to warrant prosecution. Books involved are: *Sex Life of a Cop* and *Joy Killer*. The decision opens way for setting new trial date for the four defendants (Meehan having since deceased), but no immediate action is planned.

Notable only for its frankness in revealing the association between CDL and NODL is the report from Indio, California, that the Coachella Valley Citizens for Decent Literature are making available to newsstand dealers and others as a guide to determine what not to sell and read a list of 336 paperback books and 206 magazines "disapproved for youth" by the National Office for Decent Literature. Noted also was the fact that the list includes 143 acceptable comic books, and that NODL also has a list of 720 acceptable pocket books for youth, though the latter apparently was not being made available in Indio by CDL.

A defense brief has been filed in CONNECTICUT Supreme Court in an appeal from the March, 1962 conviction of Trumbull Huntington for offering *Tropic of Cancer* for sale in Hartford. Defense had argued in Superior Court that Huntington had consulted responsible reviewers before offering the book for sale and honestly felt it was a work of art and not obscene. Superior Judge Frank Covello ruled that special audiences such as book reviewers may see literary merit in the book and not find it obscene, but to the average persons, "the book appears to be an autobiographical novel lacking any idea having the slightest redeeming social importance."

Harry Kambas, found guilty in Chicago on 22 April of selling an obscene paperback book, was fined \$1,000 on 4 May by Judge Richard A. Harewood. The book: *Office Tramp*, which two assistant state's attorneys took turns reading aloud to the jury during the trial.

In MASSACHUSETTS, the Worcester Obscene Literature Fighters (WOLF) aroused the ire of two local ministers when WOLF included Margaret Mead's

Coming of Age in Samoa and Dr. Alan F. Guttmacher's *Planning Your Family* in an exhibit of allegedly obscene materials. Said Episcopal Rev. Thaddeus Clapp: "I don't believe in suppression. I don't think it's up to a citizen's committee to regulate the reading material of a whole population." Universalist Rev. Eugene H. Adams lashed out at the "crude tactics" used by city officials at the 13 April meeting of WOLF. He said the "vigilante spirit" which characterized the meeting reminded him of "the night riders of the Deep South."

The Sante Fe, NEW MEXICO, city council on 29 April passed a newly revised obscenity ordinance unanimously despite a somewhat ominous word of advice from its city attorney "hope for the best and rely on the courts." The ordinance is itself not notable, but the reason for passage, as reported the following day in *The New Mexican* is: "... the aim of the city is not to jail or fine magazine salesmen, but to support a campaign for voluntary removal of publications considered objectionable from Sante Fe newsstands."

Albert Schlusel, Port Chester, NEW YORK, cigar store proprietor, on 25 March defended himself on charges of selling "obscene, lewd or lascivious" literature to a 17-year-old girl on 20 December. Literature in point was a copy of *Rogue* magazine. Girl in question was Miss Marie Elizabeth Purpura, senior at the Academy of the Resurrection in Rye, and daughter of Earl Purpura, Chairman of the Decent Literature Committee of Port Chester, who stood across the street during the alleged transaction. Also pending in Port Chester courts are charges against two other magazine dealers brought by Miss Purpura and her 15-year-old brother. Verdict on *Rogue*: Not obscene.

Governor Rockefeller on April 14 signed a bill making it a misdemeanor to sell to persons under 18 pictures, photos, books which contain obscene pictures. New law substituted word 'contain' for 'consist of'.

No Change in Saigon

No matter who happens to be the boss in South Viet Nam, Saigon's newspapers lead a precarious existence. Those that don't die of malnutrition, a common fate where even the biggest daily is hard put to it to muster 35,000 readers, run the risk of offending the government. The late President Diem controlled the press with a heavy hand. And, after a temporary lull, so did the junta government that overthrew him. Last week Major General Nguyen Khanh, who overthrew Diem's overthrowers last January, demonstrated that he was no different from any of his predecessors. In two successive days he ordered seven Saigon dailies out of print.

The banned papers had sinned in the traditional South Viet Nam way—that is, by printing something not to the authorities' taste. One paper had dared to refer to Khanh's military regime as a "so-called democratic government." Another, noting that terrorists had scuttled a U.S. aircraft ferry in Saigon harbor last month, challenged the adequacy of Khanh's security measures.—*Time*, 5 June.

Clean Literature

There is a real possibility for growth in children's and young people's reading by adopting a positive approach to the problem. A recent release in this paper from a committee concerning itself with Decent Literature proposed a negative approach. That would be the development of a "Clean" literature week. The use of the word clean is a negative concept assuming an opposite is a word called dirty. But, since cleanliness is at best a relative term, the Decent Literature Committee's scope is suddenly broadened to include the morality in an area where they are neither trained nor adept. Also, the committee's scope is suddenly broadened to include a concern with and control over the reading habits of adults as well as the habits of children and young people, a situation which is anathema in our democracy.

In our towns there are organizations of qualified professionals who pioneered in the selection of materials for the improvement of reading. These organizations are the Public Libraries which for years have been developing collections of reading and informational material to broaden the scope and intelligence of our citizens. That this has been done well is shown from the interest in the libraries and what they can offer by teachers in public and parochial schools who recommend that the libraries are the place to get the good reading material they need.

If parents then exert an influence and express an interest in what the children are doing and reading, the Decent Literature Committee would find no work to do. This, incidentally, is the best thing that can happen if the committee works itself out of a job, just as the vigilantes of old did once they made the citizens of the community aware of the problems and suggested solutions.

We therefore suggest the following:

1. That the committee concern itself with the development of good reading habits.
2. That this be done by asking libraries to print up recommended lists of books to meet the various needs of children and young people.
3. That parents be encouraged to take a wider interest in the doings of their children and be shown the value of working with their children.
4. That the committee develop latent talents in the group with which they are concerned by sponsoring reading and speaking clubs on topics for which lists have been prepared by the professional librarians.
5. That the committee encourage the newsdealers with whose wares they are so concerned, to attend and join in sponsorship of regular meetings of junior reader meetings.
6. That the emphasis in the future of the committee be switched to Good Reading.

This will accomplish the important objectives the committee should have, to see that children and young people develop a sense of taste and discrimination in their reading; redevelop a proper relationship and interest between parents and their children; remove the need for concern for the development of poor reading habits by encouraging the awakening of a higher level of understanding; promote the valuable services of the local public library as the educational agency of great value in the community that it is; elevate the goals of living.

July, 1964

We are assured of support of "Good Literature Week" all the year around by our local libraries. Can we expect the same type of positive assurance from the local Decent Literature Committees?—East Orange Record, 26 March.

Franco's New Commandments

For 26 years the press in Franco's Spain has been fenced in by a "provisional" code of *El Caudillo's* own construction. Its comprehensive restrictions, bound into law, taught newspapers such docility that enforcement of the law was rarely necessary. Last week, as a reward to his domesticated press, Franco proposed replacing the old law with what purported to be a more liberal statute. But the first six press commandments enunciated by Minister of Information Manuel Fraga Iribarne suggested that in Franco's Spain press freedom would remain only a dream:

- "Observe the norms of Christian morals and maintain fidelity to the principles of the national movement."
- "Keep in mind the requirements of security and national coexistence, order and public health."
- "Give special care to everything that affects themes or publications destined for children and young people."
- "Observe the strictest respect for the dignity, privacy, fame and reputation of persons."
- "Keep the professional secret, except in cases of obligatory cooperation with justice."
- "Be loyal to the company for which they work."

To encourage newsmen to follow these injunctions, Iribarne also cited the severest penalty for disobedience: excommunication from the profession of journalism—as practiced in Spain.—*Time*, 5 June.

French Censorship

Your article "Creeping Censorship" (*Newsweek*, April 20) is substantially correct, except on one point.

The reason I received such a brutal sentence, including one year's imprisonment, was not the publication some ten years ago of "Our Lady of the Flowers," but of six other books, also quite old. The judge took a particular dislike to one of them, Harriet Daimler's dainty novel "The Woman Thing," which he insisted was sheer pornography. My pig-headed refusal to accept that definition sealed my fate.

However, it is true that the English version of Jean Genet's famous novel "Our Lady of the Flowers," as published by me, had been banned in France some five or six years ago. It had been on sale in the original French version ever since the war and can be bought freely in any bookshop; this type of limited, erratic censorship obviously does not make sense especially when it is directed against one of France's truly great writers. But it is hard indeed for French policemen and magistrates to censor books printed in English, and the linguistic difficulty is not the only source of confusion.

Censorship, be it Russian, Portuguese, or French, is everywhere the same. And you were quite right to put moral and political censorship in the same bag in your article, as they always have the same purpose.

Maurice Girodias
Newsweek, 4 May. The Olympia Press

'The Group' in America

4 May 1964

Dear Mrs. ———:

We much appreciate your writing about your distress concerning *The Group*. As a library board member and community leader, you are more aware than most people would be of the responsibility to stand for the support of good books in general and of wise selection for the library, and at the same time to defend freedom to read and the prevention of censorship. I am glad to be writing this letter to an LCP participant who has had excellent experience in seeking facts and calmly examining philosophy for it is difficult for the best of us to remain composed when we encounter a book which is personally so repugnant that the urge to censor is almost irresistible.

In the case of *The Group*, the advertising quotes from reviews of this book, as for most, are out of context and imply more than the complete reviews, I expect. Nevertheless we must recognize that Miss McCarthy is a contemporary writer of fiction whose work serious critics consider of significance I enclose the copy of *The Booklist* which includes and describes the book as an aid to librarians considering it. Some libraries would select it and others omit it as a result of reading the note. The determining factor in inclusion or exclusion would be the librarian's assessment of the reading interests of the community with recognition in so far as budgets allow, of the interests of individuals as well as interests of the majority.

I would thoroughly agree that *The Group* is not a book to be recommended for young people in high school or public library. However, if we are consistent with our philosophy of freedom to read, adults who wish to read the book by purchasing or borrowing it should be permitted that privilege, although no one is forced to read it if he does not so desire. I am enclosing the "documents" which spell out the freedom to read obligations which ALA and many libraries, librarians and other citizens recognize as essential to freedom of expression and thought.

I am sure you are as painfully aware as are we of the tremendous publicity and promotion value of any kind of book banning. Nothing brings more calls for a book. No action could be more welcomed by cash-register-conscious booksellers and publishers. Book banning is undesirable under any circumstances, but its opposite result from that intended should not be overlooked when there is an inclination to decry a book.

The real answer to such a question as the one you raise is planned and vigorous publicity for good books which you, the mayor and many others would like to see much more widely read. Through enthusiastic book introductions on the radio, at meetings, in classes and at clubs, good books can become the subject of conversation. Excitement in them can be created. I have been interested in the fact that a young people's book discussion program by Detroit Public Library called "Young America Looks at Books" is carried by some dozen or fifteen educational and commercial stations in various parts of the country. Lists like *Book Bait* (ALA 1957), *African Encounter* and *Richer by Asia* (I am sending you a copy of these two under separate cover) help librarians and youth leaders to know and remem-

ber books, so that they can recommend them with enthusiasm and conviction.

Reading for an Age of Change, the ALA Adult Services Division series of reading programs is the path to another kind of introduction of books. With literature as with so many other aspects of modern life, our major problems concern our abilities to direct our energies to constructive positive action.

Sincerely yours,
Mildred L. Batchelder
ALA Staff Liaison
Committee on Intellectual Freedom
and Executive Secretary
Young Adult Services Division

Dell Stops Distribution of 'Fanny Hill' Paperback

Dell Distributing, Inc., has temporarily stopped the sale of the Putnam paperback edition of John Cleland's *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure or Fanny Hill*. The company asked booksellers to return their copies of the book to the warehouses where they normally address Dell orders.

In stopping the sale of *Fanny Hill*, the distributor said: "Since the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court reversed a local court's decision that 'Fanny Hill' was not obscene, thus banning 'Fanny Hill' from sale in New York, there has been a flood of local prosecutions in other states. Civil or criminal actions have taken place in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Ohio and Illinois. We are contesting these actions but feel that we must call this book off sale temporarily. (Dell is paying one-half of court costs with Putnam in cases where the paperback is involved.)

"It is our intention to carry the case of 'Fanny Hill' to the Supreme Court if it becomes necessary. When we have defeated local actions or have been successful in appealing to the Supreme Court, as we expect to be, we will commence further distribution and sale. In the meantime we urge you to cease selling 'Fanny Hill' in order to avoid the risk of criminal prosecution."—*P.W.*, 11 May.

Enlightenment from Within: A Dubious Position?

William M. Landau, M.D., Chairman of the ACLU's St. Louis affiliate, has been appointed one of seven members of a Decent Literature Commission established by a St. Louis County ordinance last summer.

In his acceptance letter, Dr. Landau said he was "opposed in principle" to such a commission because he thought it likely would be "involved in censorship," but he pledged himself to "serve well."

Despite the misgivings of some members of the St. Louis ACLU Board, the affiliate's officers supported his decision to serve on the Commission. It is thought his position will afford him first-hand knowledge of the pressures and arguments for various censorship actions. The ordinance provides for fines up to \$1000 and jail sentences up to one year.

At its March 10 meeting, the Commission was asked to give official endorsement and sponsorship to "Perversion for Profit," a film produced by a private censorship organization. It declined to do so.

Dr. Landau told the Commission that the movie ranges in quality from "the improper to the inane," "some parts are thoroughly dishonest," and that it is generally an emotional appeal not based on facts.

Dr. Landau urged that the Commission provide "facts, not emotion" and that it avoid defining obscenity. "Obscenity must be defined in the courts, with due process of law," he said, "and this Commission must not attempt to do so."

The Union's national office has expressed to the St. Louis Civil Liberties Committee its doubts as to the wisdom of seeming to cooperate in any way with a body that promotes censorship. The ACLU's By-Laws provide that "an affiliate shall act in accordance with the policies of the Union, with the understanding that the purpose of this requirement is to obtain general unity rather than absolute uniformity."—*Civil Liberties*, May.

Kansas and Obscene Books

The interesting exchange between Chief Justice Earl Warren and Kansas Atty. Gen. William Ferguson before the U.S. Supreme Court suggests the high court may eventually find a portion of the Kansas obscenity law unconstitutional.

Justices Warren and Arthur Goldberg objected to the state procedure of seizing and destroying obscene literature rather than prosecuting dealers who sell the books.

The Kansas statute, altered in 1961, provides both for misdemeanor proceedings against sellers of obscene literature and seizure and destruction of the offending material. Moreover, the law provides the classic standards for determination of obscenity—that the material must be considered in its entirety and that its effect must be judged, not on any class or age group, but for its impact upon the average person in the community.

One of the arguments at the time the search-and-seizure law was passed was that in proceedings against sellers of obscene matter often there is a time lapse of months before a determination can be obtained and that during this period the suspect material may continue to be sold.

But, as comments by members of the Supreme Court seem to imply, there are dangers in abuse of the law when it permits books to be seized and burned. Few persons would defend the books in question, but allowing district judges to decide what should be destroyed is risky.

Censorship is like a poisonous medicine—so dangerous it should only be used with the most careful procedures, with assurances of protection of the American freedom of access to many viewpoints. It seems to us that the provision for prosecution of sellers of obscene material meets this criterion, but that the section permitting destruction of books does not.

The U.S. Supreme Court would do the state a service by removing the book-burning provision. There still would remain adequate means of dealing with purveyors of pornography.—*Wichita Eagle*, 7 April.

July, 1964

Evergreen Review Raid—'Obscenity'

I

BETHPAGE, N. Y., UP, 25 April.—Investigators raided a Long Island printing house yesterday and seized 21,000 copies of the *Evergreen Review*, a well-known literary journal, on charges that they contained obscene matter.

George Paralanpoudis, president of Pegasus Press, was arrested and arraigned on pornography charges. Also named were Richard Seaver, secretary and associate editor of the *Review*, and Barney Rosset, editor and president.

The charges stemmed from an article by Wayland Young, entitled "The Excluded Words." It is based on a socio-historical study of the suppression of sex. The preface of the volume describes Young as a "diplomat, novelist, historian, newspaperman and a member of the British House of Lords. . . ."

The issue came to the attention of police when a woman working at the bindery complained about its contents.

On 18 May *Evergreen Review* filed suit in U.S. District Court, Brooklyn, for the return of the 21,000 copies of the April-May issue, \$100,000 damages, and an order restraining DA William Cahn from interfering with the manufacture and distribution of the magazine.

II

One of the first organizations to issue a public statement on the action by Mr. Cahn was the Nassau County Library Association's Committee on Intellectual Freedom. On April 29 the Committee sent the following statement to the district attorney and to the local press:

"The Committee on Intellectual Freedom of the Nassau County Library Association expresses its grave concern over the Nassau County District Attorney's seizure of the current issue of the *Evergreen Review* on the grounds of obscenity.

"The *Evergreen Review* has achieved and maintained an excellent reputation in the field of contemporary literature. The quality of its contents can be judged by the fact that among its contributors are writers of international repute such as Jean-Paul Sartre, Samuel Beckett, Edward Albee, Brendan Behan, Eugène Ionesco, Karl Shapiro, and many others. Because of its eminence as a literary periodical, among its subscribers are numerous libraries in Nassau County and throughout the United States.

"By confiscating the recent issue of the *Evergreen Review* at the bindery before its distribution, the highly literate and well-educated adult group who read the periodical for pleasure, and who also make use of it for study or research purposes, are being deprived of certain essential democratic liberties: the freedom of inquiry, the free exchange of ideas, and the freedom to read the written word.

"The Committee . . . deplures and rejects this act or any other act of censorship which ultimately will determine and restrict what or what not the public may be allowed to read, and which attempts to impose upon the entire community the personal standards, beliefs, tastes, or concepts of morality held by any group or individual."

Even the British Do It

First report of the British AAL week-end school devoted to censorship (May, p. 39) is the following paragraph from the 18 April *Bookseller* about the address of Croydon librarian R. E. Callender:

"Mr. Callender spoke about the practical problems of the librarian. His practice was not to apply censorship to his stock, he said, but to have a segregated section in private shelves. His staff issued these segregated books without question, but children had to bring a note from a parent asking for a book from these shelves to be issued to a child. It mattered very little, if at all, if adolescents read unsuitable books."

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.

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