



## newsletter

# ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

PUBLISHED BY THE INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, ERVIN J. GAINES, DIRECTOR, MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY, CHAIRMAN, EDITED BY LEROY CHARLES MERRITT, DEAN, UNIVERSITY OF OREGON SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP.

VOL. XVI

MAY, 1967

No. 3

## Fiske Revisited

This report of the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the Iowa Library Association addresses itself primarily to public libraries—to their librarians and trustees. Each member of this committee is either librarian or trustee to a public library. Furthermore, this Committee argues from experience that the nature and function of a public library and its policies—which are not geared to the academic and scholarly confines of the college, university or school library—make the public library a vulnerable and endemic environ for the disease censorship, both internal and external.

Previous reports of this Committee have stressed that evidence of direct, external censorship of materials in Iowa libraries has been, in effect, non-existent. True, Iowa has had no overt signs of public censure of the collections of any library. This is not necessarily admirable. The fact evidences only one set of alternatives: external and internal censorship have either not been publicized or considered unnewsworthy. Yet this Committee contends censorship does exist in Iowa, that it has existed for years, and that it will continue to exist unless librarians and trustees are willing to act against it. Furthermore, censorship has been an inherent professional grace to many public libraries who persist in calling their stated book policies (or lack of them) book selection. A more honest—and more curable—semantic would be to call that practice book censorship. This Committee believes this situation endemic in a great number of Iowa public libraries, and this internal censorship is practiced by librarians and trustees.

A recent poll in Southeast Iowa, hastily collected by this Committee's chairman for the recent District VI meeting of ILA found internal censorship in that locale to be a fact. John O'Hara's *Elizabeth Appleton* was banned from the shelves of one public library as a book "too filthy for our discriminating readers." *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, Henry Miller's *The Rosy Crucifixion*, *Rashomon*, *Diary Of A Mad Old Man*, and even Sterne's *Tristram Shandy* or Defoe's *Moll Flanders* were missing from a number of libraries for reasons which boiled down to this statement from one public librarian: "We operate in a conservative community: our policy and book selection practices are fixed accordingly."

This Committee realizes that Southeast Iowa's sample was neither scientific nor accurate; but we contend it shows a sample of internal censorship that may well be endemic. The sample only touched on some books that may have been rejected for sexual materials. Doubtless, the same rejection—or censorship—exists in other areas: political, social, or religious, and this Com-

### In Memoriam

Dedicated to the memory of Louis Schreiber, 1917-1965, who was chairman of the Massachusetts Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee at the time of his death, the October, 1966 issue of *The Bay State Librarian* is devoted to the texts of eight significant Documents on Intellectual Freedom. Editor Robert E. Wagenknecht thus brings to fruition one of Louis Schreiber's own ideas for bringing these landmark statements into more permanently accessible form. Included are: Library Bill of Rights (ALA), School Library Bill of Rights (AASL), The Freedom to Read (ALA and ABPC), Statement on the Freedom to Read (ABA), Statement on Labeling (ALA), How Libraries and Schools Can Resist Censorship (ALA), The Students' Right to Read (NCTE), Combatting Undemocratic Pressures on Schools and Libraries (ACLU).

mittee also believes the situation in Southeast Iowa to be no different from that throughout Iowa.

The distinctive activity of a public library is service, service augmented by a well-rounded collection of materials, primarily books. Can a library's public service be called such if a true, representative sample of the publishing industry's product is not available? Can a library be called in fact a library if it does not meet its obligation of service? Rhetorical questions aside, Iowa public libraries face a situation which gnaws at the fabric of their existence.

This Committee further feels that responsibility for this situation must be identified. It cannot rest with the general public. It did not make the policy, nor is it aware of the intellectual climate which causes internal censorship. Nor can boards and staffs of the libraries practicing internal censorship be blamed entirely; there might well be a case for saying, "they don't know any better." Nor should the blame rest with the State Traveling Library, which has done as much as possible with limited staff, facilities, and funds to upgrade Iowa public libraries.

The blame must rest where it belongs: with all of us. The evidence of internal censorship has been with us for years. It has been the butt of jokes—both ours and the public's—and identified often as a "Deplorable Situation." "Canker" would be more accurate semantically. Yet, to this Committee's knowledge, no one in Iowa has been willing to do much more than talk about it. The blame for internal censorship rests, first of all, with the Intellectual Freedom Committee; and

finally, with the total membership of the Iowa Library Association. Unless far-ranging plans for the eradication of internal censorship are now conceived, the Intellectual Freedom Committee has no legitimate reason to exist. Nor, for that matter, does the Iowa Library Association, or—ultimately—libraries themselves. It is time for all of us to grow up.

This Committee realizes the remedies to internal censorship cannot be immediate. But, with the incoming of the Library School at the University of Iowa, practical steps can be taken soon. Therefore, the Intellectual Freedom Committee recommends the following procedures to the Executive Board of the Iowa Library Association:

1. That the Iowa Library Association sponsor and finance a study of internal censorship in Iowa public libraries. This study should be exhaustive and follow the established procedures of social science research. It should isolate causes and natures of internal censorship and indicate societal and intra-professional factors which induce them. The study should further recommend means to alleviate and reduce those causes, natures and factors:
2. That the proposed study be done as part of a research program of the Graduate School of Library Science at the State University of Iowa:
3. That necessary funds for the study be supplied or procured by the Iowa Library Association:
4. That that Association be willing to apply sanctions on libraries or librarians who knowingly foster a climate that produces de facto internal censorship.

This Committee believes such a study could be a landmark in Midwestern librarianship. It should approach the standard of the Fiske study in California. To this Committee's knowledge, no similar research in depth has been done, certainly not in Iowa. Furthermore, this Committee enjoins that unless a study such as the one proposed becomes reality; unless the Iowa Library Association is prepared to take a strong stand against internal censorship, libraries and librarians faced with overt external censorship will have their day in court with limited—even inane—support from their fellows. Censorship from without can be fought on better than even grounds; censorship from within should not be tolerated.

James B. Nelson, Chairman  
Andrew Hansen  
Nathan Levinson  
*ILA Catalyst*, November

#### Mortified

"I am mortified to be told that, in the United States of America, a question about the sale of a book can be carried before the civil magistrate. Are we to have a censor whose imprimatur shall say what books may be sold, and what we may buy?

"Shall a layman, simple as ourselves, set up his reason as the rule for what we are to read? It is an insult to our citizens to question whether they are rational beings or not."—Thomas Jefferson, as quoted by Abigail Van Buren on 26 Feb.

## Castagna Sums It Up

### I. Book Burners

The bookstore in the 400 block of Park Avenue is reputed to carry left-wing and civil-rights literature. The persons who have attacked the store on successive occasions with a brick, red paint and lighted gasoline are presumed to be right-wing racists. But the political tags are of no matter. The situation would be an odious one if the bookstore were right-wing and the attackers left-wing. What matters is that a bookstore in Baltimore has been subjected repeatedly to hoodlumesque harassment and has lost its insurance and received an eviction notice.

Despite appearances, surely it is not a matter of public indifference in Baltimore that a bookstore may be hounded out of existence. A city can claim for itself a world's championship in baseball and have a shiny new set of downtown towers and have expressways coiled in concrete symbols of technical progress, but if it is a place where a bookstore can be driven out by terror tactics, it is not a big-league city or a cosmopolitan city or a progressive center of culture and enlightenment. A city in which a bookstore is forced to yield to know-nothing book burners is a mean place, a frightened and frightening place, and it easily could happen to Baltimore while good citizens are busily looking the other way.—*Baltimore Sun*, 14 March.

### II. A Bookstore Defended

The New Era Bookshop's physical safety and continuation in business, both jeopardized in recent weeks, appear now to be secure. Mayor McKeldin's firm action assures the premises police protection against the sneak attempts to damage its wares or even commit arson upon the entire store building, and assures the proprietor support in dealing with a landlord and insurers whose first reaction to the violence had been to cut loose.

The Mayor's course is the only possible one consistent with courage, with respect for law and order, and with common sense. The nature of some of the materials this particular bookstore offers for sale is not the primary consideration (and at that, the books and pamphlets and magazines in question seem to be available, quite legally, at other outlets as well). The issue is simply whether law-violators, Klansmen or otherwise, shall be allowed to force a business, by violence, out of a location and perhaps out of existence. If successful in one instance, they would be encouraged to make similar attempts against other establishments that, for whatever reasons, incurred their displeasure.

The only answer is to halt such an outrage where it starts—and to hope that the perpetrators have enough intelligence to perceive that the city's action represents the sense of the whole community.—*Baltimore Sun*, 21 March.

### III. Intellectual Freedom

Sir: We heartily support *The Sun* in its effort to uphold the position taken by the Mayor to enforce the protection of free enterprise, namely the New Era Bookshop. In essence, the basic principle of the free-

dom of communication is being safeguarded. We can afford nothing less.

It is important that the rights of free men, based on the American Constitution, be preserved at all times.—Geneva J. Robinson, Chairman, Intellectual Freedom Committee, Maryland Library Association. *Baltimore Sun*, 28 March.

#### IV. The Right to Read

*Sir:* All the Molotov cocktails manufactured by all the hoodlums in Maryland could not have killed one of the ideas in the books of the New Era Bookshop. The history of human thought from ancient China, through Hitler, and down to Mao Tse-tung proves that even high officials backed by powerful police cannot for long silence the expression of unorthodox ideas. And the record of self-appointed suppressors of books shows that their lawless vigilantism always fails in its avowed objective, while rallying decent people to defend a basic right. . . .

One of the strengths of the United States is the assurance of legal protection of the dissenter. Thomas Jefferson wrote: "I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man." Tyranny over the mind of man was the intent of the outlaws who attacked the bookshop. The real patriots, both officials and lay citizens, made it their business to protect freedom when it was endangered.

As we congratulate Mayor McKeldin for his prompt action, admire Mr. Lee for his cool bravery under fire, and take satisfaction in the intelligent concern expressed by our fellow citizens, we are justified in feeling pride at Baltimore's response to this threat to a basic American right—the right to read. Librarians and others involved with books know by experience this right must constantly be defended.—Edwin Castagna, Director, Enoch Pratt Free Library.—*Baltimore Sun*, 28 March.

## South African Censorship

Johannesburg, South Africa

Police moved throughout the city yesterday ripping the front page from a newspaper which named five men, including a well-known music lecturer, as being charged with homosexual offenses.

An attorney for one of the accused discovered the story in an early edition of the Sunday newspaper, *Die Beeld*, and obtained a pre-dawn court injunction prohibiting sale of the paper. Police were then sent out to destroy all front pages they could find.—*SF Chronicle*, 16 January.

### WELCOME

A sincere and cordial welcome to a new contemporary: the *IFRC Newsletter*, the official publication of the Illinois Freedom to Read Committee. Initial issue is dated April, 1967 and is four pages long. Individual memberships at \$2 may be sent to the Committee at 642 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago 60611.

## Book Censorship Decried

Editor  
Roswell Daily Record  
424 North Main Street

Dear Sir:

Not long after I became head librarian of Roswell Public Library, an irate gentleman was steered to my office who was spluttering about the library having made a "dirty book" available to his 16 year old daughter. I think the book he objected to was "Grapes of Wrath" by Steinbeck. At any rate, I welcomed him to my office, as it seemed his problem was related to the one I was struggling with, and his opinion might be valuable.

At that time I was seriously considering combining the Young People's Collection with the Adult Collection in main stacks, because of shortages of both staff and space.

When I asked him about his ideas on my problem, before considering his, he was a little surprised. But he was soon rattling off reasons why there should be a separate Young People's Collection, most of which I agreed with. He said that if young people could find books suitable for them in one part of the library, that would suit him fine, as he wouldn't have to stumble over too many kids in the stacks when he was looking for books.

"Also," I suggested, "they might be less inclined to pick up books you might want to read, but that you wouldn't want your daughter to read?" He picked up the book on his lap, which was from the main stacks, and sheepishly agreed with me. "I'll tell her to get her books in the Young People's section until she's a little older," he said.

We still have a Young People's section in the library, and we will have for a long time to come, even though we have no funds with which to hire a Young People's librarian, and no space for new books.

I'm sure we would all be horrified if our reading matter had to be chosen from a collection of books which was judged by booksellers and librarians as fit to be read by a sensitive twelve-year-old. Our old reliance on parents, teachers, and librarians to guide our reading habits has worked well enough in the past; can any free nation condone blanket censorship or book burning in the name of an ideology or "morality"?

But Senate Bill 110, which will come up for a hearing on Monday in Santa Fe, will do just that—make us lock up or destroy any book which might be deemed "obscene" with regard to the juvenile reader. And Dad's old paperbacks with the girlie covers had better be put on a high shelf or he might find himself in trouble with the law for making objectionable materials "available."

If this bill goes through, we will have lots of "Young People's" librarians in Roswell. All your librarians will be buying young people's books and we might as well hang the "Young People's Section" sign in front of Main Stacks.

Ironically enough, though, a prohibition on "sexy" books will do little to abate traffic in them—indeed it will probably stimulate their circulation, as the forbidden is always sought after.

I am of the opinion that the responsibility for what a child reads should be primarily a parent's responsibility, with the teacher, the librarian, and perhaps the clergyman, in the background to assist. Should we permit government control and regulation of this most intimate part of our lives?

The New Mexico Library Association is actively fighting this bill, as are most of the librarians in Roswell. The librarian is generally bound to support the Freedom to Read Statement formulated by the American Library Association, and believes that the answer to a bad book is a good book. A community which supports its public and school libraries adequately need not fear any pernicious effects from a few sleazy magazines in a drug store.

I earnestly enjoin all citizens concerned with the struggle for intellectual freedom to write, telephone or telegraph their concern to their elected officials in Santa Fe, or to attend the hearings Monday, to help defeat this restrictive measure. A copy of the bill and the Freedom to Read Statement can be seen at Roswell Public Library.

Sincerely,  
Gordon McShean  
Head Librarian  
15 February

## "Last Exit to Brooklyn" Found Obscene in London

Hubert Selby, Jr.'s novel, "Last Exit To Brooklyn," published in England by Calder & Boyars, has been judged "obscene" in London by magistrate Leo Gradwell. In his opinion, Mr. Gradwell said of the book: "It certainly, taken as a whole, would tend to deprave and corrupt, and I cannot think, in spite of the evidence I have heard, that it can be justified by literary merit."

Under Section I of the Obscene Publication Act in England, the magistrate must be satisfied that the book, taken as a whole, would tend to deprave and corrupt, before it may be declared obscene. All the witnesses who testified against the book commented on the effect that it might have on schoolboys.

Mr. Gradwell further stated: "I must tell you that this book in its descriptions goes beyond any book of any kind that we have seen in this court. One passage I am thinking of is more likely to deprave and corrupt than any of those cyclostyled horrors." Mr. Gradwell did not mention which passage in particular he was referring to.

The book has been declared obscene only in the Marlborough Street court area and nowhere else, which presumably means that booksellers are free to sell "Last Exit" outside of the Marlborough Street court area. Those booksellers who sell the book in the court area do so knowing that the book has been declared legally obscene.

Calder & Boyars said that it was doubtful that the firm would appeal the decision due to the expense of such a legal battle. The firm distributes the book from Kensington, which is outside of the affected area and will continue its distribution of the book. — *P.W.*, 2 January.

## New Mexico Librarians Take a Stand

Librarians from around the state will testify in Santa Fe today against a Senate bill "prohibiting the dissemination of obscene materials to juveniles."

The bill, introduced by Sens. William Schauer and S. H. Cavin, Chaves County, Republicans, seeks to forbid the exhibition or distribution to a person under 18 of "any obscene or pornographic printed matter, picture or recording." The definition of obscene "means that to the average persons, applying contemporary community standards, the dominant theme of the material taken as a whole appeals to prurient interest." The bill would make such dissemination a fourth degree felony.

Lee Parman, president of the State Library Assn., said his group is fighting the proposed bill, not just because its enactment would have a "frightening" effect on libraries, "but our objections are broader as well."

He said the delegation which will appear to testify against the bill will include at least half a dozen librarians from around the state. Members of the association's legislative and intellectual freedom committee are arranging the trip.

Mrs. Elsa Thompson, recently retired Albuquerque librarian, said she considered the bill "a very bad act. Anything on censorship is bad," she said, "because who is going to be the censor? Who is going to say take the 'Grapes of Wrath' or the Bible off your shelves because we don't want people reading parts of them."

Mrs. Thompson said parents should be aware of what their children are reading, "but we shouldn't have self-appointed censors telling libraries or bookstores or newsstands what they can put on their shelves."

Don Riechmann, new head librarian for the Albuquerque Library, said "obviously anything that hints at censorship should be given cautious and serious attention. This bill does raise many problems."

Among them, he said, is that saying anyone below 18 can't view certain materials is in effect saying that the materials must be withdrawn from the library. "This puts the library in the very difficult situation as we have no way of excluding certain ages."

He said passage of such a law would eliminate many of the materials a library now has. "Many times people have tried to take literature off the shelves of high school libraries that have proved important in our contemporary culture."

Riechmann said if the intent of the bill is to deal with "hard core pornography, it's not aimed directly at that . . . It's too broad in concept."

He said the bill also would contradict a Supreme Court ruling which specified, as the bill does not, that a work must be "without social importance." He said "once a bill like this is in force, it eliminates works of real literary merit and social importance."

He added that studies have shown that there is no real distinct correlation between sex offenses and literature.—*Albuquerque Journal*, 17 February.

## WLA Makes a Point

I.

To the Editor:

March 7, 1967

A final report on the disposition of the anti-obscenity measure introduced into the 1967 session of the Wyoming Legislature; the bill died in committee in the Senate, without ever having come to the floor of either house. As the bill's sponsor was chairman of the Judiciary Committee which considered the bill, I assume he could have brought it to the floor if he had really wanted to; therefore it may have died because of his own lack of interest in it.

The Executive Board of the Wyoming Library Association, at the request of the Chairman of the Intellectual Freedom Committee of WLA did take a formal stand in opposition to the measure, and sent a letter to the members of the Judiciary Committee stating WLA's opposition to the measure, and its reasons therefore. IFC had also lined up several senators who were prepared to speak against the bill had it come up for action, and provided them with factual material to use in their speeches (including reprints from the *Newsletter*).

An interesting sidelight: Wyoming might have ended up not with a stronger anti-obscenity bill, but with no anti-obscenity law at all. During the Senate debate of a measure allowing welfare agencies to disseminate birth control information, which included some minor revisions to the existing (since 1890) anti-obscenity law, an amendment was offered from the floor which would in effect have nullified the entire 1890 measure, not by actually repealing it, but by striking from it all references to obscenity, on the not unreasonable grounds that obscenity is not capable of definition, even by the courts. The amendment drew little support, however, and was defeated. The birth control information measure itself was passed by the Senate, but died in committee in the House, so the final result of the session was to leave the obscenity situation in Wyoming unchanged.

I cannot honestly say that the stand taken by WLA was instrumental in killing the bill, as the decision not to bring it up for action may very well have been reached by the Judiciary Committee before the letter was sent. However, the letter may at least have confirmed their decision.

In one other respect, WLA was not successful; this was in attempting to enlist the support of other associations that ought to have been concerned. Although a member of WLA who is also active in the Wyoming Press Association requested that organization to take a stand at its winter convention, they declined to do so. No other serious attempt was made to induce any other organization to oppose the bill; as it turned out, this was unimportant this time, but I have every reason to suppose that the proponents of the measure (chiefly the Casper Chapter of Citizens for Decent Literature) will be trying again in 1969; they may well be better organized next time, and those of us who believe in intellectual freedom had best be prepared.

Sincerely,  
Paul B. Cors  
Secretary, WLA-IFC

II.

January 30, 1967

Honorable Dick Tobin, Chairman  
Judiciary Committee  
Wyoming State Senate  
Capitol Building  
Cheyenne, Wyoming  
Dear Senator Tobin:

The Wyoming Library Association wishes to state its strong opposition to Senate File 60, a bill which attempts to control the distribution of all allegedly obscene literature. The members of the Association are opposed to this measure on the following grounds:

1. The bill's repressive nature clearly violates the rights of free speech and freedom of the press guaranteed by the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Wyoming to all citizens. The search and seizure provisions of the bill, and the extradition proposals, also appear to violate the United States Constitution.
2. The effect of the bill would be to restrict the adult citizens of Wyoming to reading only material written for children. We believe that the responsibility for regulating the reading of children belongs to the home, not the State.
3. While the intent of the measure is presumably to prevent crime, there is no evidence that reading so-called obscene literature is a cause of crime. On the contrary, the inability to read anything really well is a characteristic of most criminals. Furthermore, psychiatric studies indicate that there is no cause-effect relationship between the reading of literature concerned with sex and the commission of sex crimes.
4. The entire tone of the measure is negative and punitive. Therefore, the members of the Association urge that the bill be defeated, and that a positive approach substituted: namely, the financial strengthening of the publicly supported libraries of Wyoming to enable them better to provide a wide selection of high quality reading materials for all the citizens of the State. We are firmly convinced that whenever good reading material is freely available, the demand for material of dubious quality will dwindle and disappear.

Sincerely,  
(Mrs.) Hallie Tomingas  
President,  
Wyoming Library Association

### Genet vs. Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The California ban on Jean Genet's film "Un Chant d'Amour" was before the U.S. Supreme Court on 21 March.

The American Civil Liberties Union Monday filed a brief protest on the ban on the "frank" film on prison life. The 30-minute silent film deals with the loneliness and fantasies of four inmates and a prison guard.

It was held obscene by both the Alameda Superior Court and the state Court of Appeal and the state Supreme Court refused to review the lower court opinions.

## Books Aren't for Burning

Editor:

L. David Harris' interviews with seven area residents on the sale of pornographic materials gives reason for concern. Concern arises not from what was said—none appeared radically inclined toward censorship—but rather because of apparent complacency. It seemed to me that none of those interviewed would rise to fight attempts to censor certain materials. I view this attitude as unfortunate and potentially dangerous.

It is ironic that the question of *magazine censorship* should surface just when a local theater was showing a film based on Ray Bradbury's world-acclaimed *Fahrenheit 451*, the story of a society in which book reading is banned. The title is the temperature at which book paper burns.

Pennsylvanians are affected by *censorship* more than they know, primarily because isolated cases are not widely reported. *Catcher in the Rye* and *The Grapes of Wrath* are novels of unquestionable literary merit, but they have quietly disappeared from many school library shelves because of a few parents' protests. *Tropic of Cancer* was long banned in Philadelphia. And today many public libraries keep certain books under the counter because unfavorable publicity could arise from the protests of a few if the book were discovered on the shelves. Worse, they may not buy controversial materials at all.

I do not doubt that most self-styled censors are well-intentioned. But they are necessarily self-centered, hoping to force others into the life-mold found most satisfactory for themselves. When the gentle art of persuasion has failed, force is the only recourse. There is peace of mind in knowing that your neighbor thinks just as you do. The fact that freedom of choice is the foundation of our society is for a moment, forgotten.

Most dangerous is censorship without review. A supreme court judge in Philadelphia denounced *Tropic of Cancer*, then admitted he hadn't read it because he didn't read dirty books. A Harrisburg association of religious leaders sought to discourage the showing of Virginia Woolf and passed a resolution to that affect three days before the film was given its public premiere in New York. In both cases it was assumed the materials would be objectionable. In most attempts at censorship it has been found that persons are not really familiar with what they seek to censor.

I am encouraged by one thing. Of those interviewed, one person—the youngest and a teen-ager—had the presence of mind to raise the points of censorship and literary merit, two factors overlooked by his elders.

Our concern is for our children, of course. I believe that obscenity, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. Both result from an interplay of imagination and fact. If parents and teachers arm children with enough facts, those obscene magazines will be no more erotic than the possible liaison between the Wolf and Little Red Riding Hood.—Ronn Fink, Executive Director, National Library Week in Pennsylvania, 1967.—*Harrisburg Patriot*, 19 February.

## Oregon Faculty Acts

The faculty of the University of Oregon on 2 March passed the following three-part resolution in behalf of academic freedom:

A

Be it resolved that: The faculty of the University of Oregon urge the 90th Congress of the United States, in its consideration of the extension of the National Defense Education Act of 1958, as amended, to eliminate the provisions requiring an oath of allegiance—section 1001 (f) (1)—a report of criminal offenses and pending criminal charges—section 1001 (f) (2)—and penalties—section 1001 (f) (4) (A) and (B)—for applying for NDEA benefits by members of organizations registered or ordered to register under the Subversive Activities Control Act of 1950.

Be it further resolved that: The faculty of the University of Oregon also urge the Congress to eliminate the comparable provisions contained in the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended.

B

The faculty of the University of Oregon respectfully requests the Legislature of the State of Oregon to reject the proposed bill (Senate Bill 103) to establish a revised loyalty oath for teachers in the State of Oregon.

The faculty believes that such oaths are meaningless, ineffective, and insulting by virtue of their invidiousness.

C

The faculty of the University of Oregon affirms its view that academic institutions and student groups engaged in educational activities, by the very nature of their dedication to free and open inquiry and the pursuit of truth, are not appropriate covers for governmental and other agencies conducting covert and clandestine activities.

The faculty recognizes the fundamental incompatibility between institutions and agencies devoted to the spirit of free inquiry and those involved in covert and clandestine programs. It urges government, foundation, and other officials not to jeopardize the credibility and intellectual and moral integrity of academic institutions and student groups engaged in educational activities by requesting them to participate in covert and clandestine activities.

The faculty urges the University of Oregon to continue its policy of not accepting grants, contracts, or other arrangements that in any way compromise its full dedication to the free and open acquisition and dissemination of knowledge.

### Prexy Song

I'm for Locke and I'm for Milton,  
I'm for speaking without fear.  
I'm for Academic Freedom  
Almost anyplace but here.

—Sanford Berman

### Another Oath Falls

The New Hampshire Supreme Court has found the state loyalty oath, established during the McCarthy era, to be in violation of the constitutions of New Hampshire and the United States. Not affected is the oath of allegiance required of civil officers by the New Hampshire constitution, which dates back to 1793.—Editorial in the Concord *Daily Monitor*, 27 March.

### 'Ah, Wilderness!' in Woonsocket

"That reminds me, Nat," says Mrs. Miller in Eugene O'Neill's play, *Ah, Wilderness!* "I've been meaning to speak to you about those awful books Richard is reading. You've got to give him a good talking to—."

It seems Richard, a 1906 teenager, had been devouring such scandalous works as the poems of Swinburne, the plays of Ibsen and Shaw and the *Rubaiyat* of Omar Khayyam.

Says Mr. Miller to his wife, referring to the *Rubaiyat*, "Everybody's reading that now, Essie— and it don't seem to do them any harm. There's fine things in it, seems to me—true things."

Something like this little episode was acted out in Woonsocket recently when the head of the high school English Department raised objections to the barroom scene in *Ah, Wilderness!* and the superintendent of schools decided the students shouldn't see the play being presented by the Trinity Square Repertory Company under the federally-financed Project Discovery.

About 40,000 students from every other high school in the state did see the play and, echoing Mr. Miller, we doubt that it did them any harm. On the contrary, it exposed them to the work of one of America's greatest playwrights and provided the basis for serious classroom discussion, the very purpose of Project Discovery.

If life has a seamy side that O'Neill chose to treat humorously in his play, the emphasis of the entire work is on the joy of a happy home life and the heart-warming quality and humor of pure young love.

The comment of Brother Richard Casavant of St. Clare High School in Woonsocket bears repeating. "We ask a lot of our students these days," he said. "We do not try to protect them from evil. We ask them to face it and make a decision about it."

If Woonsocket school officials were fearful that some of the language in the play would be embarrassing to the students, as Supt. Edward C. Condon explained his decision, it would have been better to raise this possibility with the parents and let them decide individually. To deny the students the privilege of seeing the play was a humiliation that would have been received with more understanding at the hands of a concerned parent.

It will be interesting to learn how many students are denied permission to see the current production of Project Discovery—Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Also, will it mean as much to teenagers as the O'Neill play?

As Mr. Miller said about the *Rubaiyat*, we say about *Ah, Wilderness!*: There are fine things in it, seems to us—true things.—Providence *Journal*, 11 February.

### UW Waives Censure of Four

SEATTLE (AP)—Four University of Washington students responsible for publishing a mimeographed newspaper carrying an article containing several four-letter words will not be disciplined by the school, Reginald Root, acting dean of students, said Thursday.

Root said he concurred with the recommendation of a special student-faculty committee appointed to investigate the matter.

The committee decided that regulations regarding obscenity on the campus should be the same as off the campus, and any prosecution would have to be by off-campus authorities.

The publication, the *Seattle Barb*, has been distributed on campus four times since the first edition appeared Jan. 17. The first issue contained an article in which several four-letter words were used.

The students involved were defended by the American Civil Liberties Union at a recent hearing.—Portland *Oregonian*, 25 February.

### Luros Gets 5 Years

SIoux CITY, IOWA—Milton Luros, 55, Los Angeles publisher, was sentenced yesterday to five years in a Federal penitentiary for sending obscene matter into Iowa.

U.S. District Court Judge W. C. Hanson also fined Luros \$25,000 and imposed fines on his four interrelated publishing houses.

Judge Hanson fined two of the publishing houses, Parliament News, Inc. and London Press Inc., \$25,000 each, and two others, American Art Agency and Sun Era Inc., \$12,000 each.

The judge overruled defense attorney Stanley Fleishman's request for a delay in sentencing pending a U.S. Supreme Court decision expected Monday in an obscenity case Fleishman said was similar to that of Luros.—San Francisco *Chronicle*, 7 January.

### Guilt Despite Association

If an allegedly obscene film is the work of a famous author, does his reputation make the work "socially important" and, therefore, not obscene? No, ruled the California District Court of Appeal in the case of Jean Genet's *Un Chant d'Amour*. The French scatologist's literary fame "does not provide a carte blanche when he ventures into the fields covered by the film," which is a searing, silent 30-minute portrayal of a sadistic prison guard alternately beating and spying upon four convicts engaged in various homosexual acts. Worse, said the court, *Chant* itself has no redeeming artistic merit. The film is devoid of theme, plot or character development. "The erotic scenes recur with increasing intensity and without direction toward any well-defined, wholesome idea." As of now in California, declared the court, *Chant d'Amour* is "nothing more than hard-core pornography, and should be banned."—*Time*, 16 December.

## Anti-Censorship Group Seeks New Members

A National Council For Freedom to Read was formed at a meeting in New York organized by Peter Jennison of the National Book Committee. Present at the meeting were representatives of various Freedom To Read organizations from New York, Maryland, Illinois, New Jersey and the American Book Publishers Council. Problems and programs were discussed and it was decided that since censorship pressure groups are organized on a nationwide basis it would be wise to have a national organization to combat their efforts. The newly created National Council For Freedom To Read is eager to get in touch with anti-censorship groups in states other than those represented at the meeting.

Chairman pro-tem, Joseph W. Faulkner (Pres. Illinois Freedom To Read Committee, owner of Main Street Book Store, Chicago) states:

"The National Council For Freedom To Read is an open assembly of fellow citizens—men and women who are collectively pledged to protect and extend the freedom to publish, disseminate and read.

"These are freedoms guaranteed the individual by first and fourteenth amendments of the Constitution of the United States, and it has been the exercise of these freedoms that has allowed our country to grow, to prosper and flourish.

"The Council makes no attempt to interpret these freedoms. We are not a pressure group. Rather, we are quite the opposite, for we would relieve the pressures created by the self-appointed groups of censors who would, by coercion and force, impose their rigid interpretations upon the public at large.

"The Council does recognize that choices should be made: by the publisher who chooses what to publish; by the seller who must fulfill his responsibility to the community; and by the reader who selects according to his needs and according to his interests. But we recognize with equal intent that the choice must be left to the individual. It is his constitutional right—as publisher, as seller, as reader—and it is this right that the National Council For Freedom To Read chooses to honor."

In addition to welcoming existing state organizations interested in freedom to read, the National Council will be glad to furnish suggestions on how to go about forming a statewide or local group. Inquiries may be addressed to Mr. Faulkner, 642 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Yours sincerely,  
Joseph W. Faulkner

### Ginzburg Appeals On

Despite rejection of a similar plea by a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, lawyers for Ralph Ginzburg on 31 March petitioned a Federal Court in Philadelphia that the full seven-man court take another look at the request. Attorneys stressed they were not raising the question of guilt or innocence, but were attacking the severity of the sentence.

## ILA IFC Lends a Hand

CHRISNEY, Ind.—A Spencer County father who removed his three children from school last year in a dispute over "sex education," has leveled a new attack on school officials for their selection of literature in the Chrisney High School library. The father, Eugene Masterson, told the North Spencer School Board in a letter that he considers the books *Grapes of Wrath* and *Best American Plays* obscene. He said he wants both removed from the high school's library.

*Best American Plays* includes in its contents "Mr. Roberts" and "Death of a Salesman." School board members on 20 February agreed to set up a five-member citizens committee to read both books and report back to the board.

A letter from the Superintendent of Schools to the Director of the Division of School Libraries and Teaching Materials for assistance was answered in part by the Chairman of the Indiana Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee, to whom it had been referred. At the first meeting of the Review Committee, at which Mr. Masterson was present, the point was made that the removal of the two books might be an injustice to some of the other students, in part as the result of the communication from the Intellectual Freedom Committee.

Accordingly, on March 6th, the Mastersons withdrew their complaints about the *Grapes of Wrath* and *Best American Plays*, and also withdrew their three older children from school.

## "Sexus" Perplexed

*Sexus* was seized from the Garden Theater on 27 April, 1965, by Anaheim police, resulting in misdemeanor obscenity charges against Jack Flack, owner, and Leonard Stephenson, manager. On 23 December, in the midst of the trial, when defense had not been heard, Judge Logan Moore directed the jury (7 women, 5 men) to return a verdict of "not guilty," on the ground that the prosecution "did not bring in evidence of prurient interests," as required by California law. After deliberating for five hours, the jury defied the judge and returned a verdict of guilty against owner Flack, and acquitted Stephenson as not being the responsible exhibitor. After some delay, a new trial was set for Flack on 17 February, when the court would also consider a defense motion to dismiss the charges.

## "Wild Angels" Banned in Denmark

COPENHAGEN (UPI) — The American movie *The Wild Angels* starring Nancy Sinatra and Peter Fonda has been banned by Danish Minister of Justice K. Axel Nielsen and the Danish film censorship board. This is only the fifth time that a film has been forbidden by the minister of justice, although censors have forbidden a number of films.

Minister Nielsen said that he agreed with film censors who decided that the film was indecent. "In my opinion, the film outrages modesty and is morally destructive," the minister said. A member of the film censorship board said the film had been forbidden "because it was too rough."—*LA Times*, 3 February.



## State Board of Censors?

There is much that is troubling about identical obscenity bills, sponsored by 60 state legislators, now awaiting action in the senate and assembly. Most unsettling is the proposal to create a special state committee "to investigate obscene materials." It would be composed of three senators, three assemblymen and three citizens "who have demonstrated an interest and acumen in the war on obscenity."

This committee could conduct "such investigations as it deems necessary," hold hearings, compel attendance of witnesses and require production of any documents it wanted. Guidelines for this proposed state board of censors are conspicuously absent.

The bill's lengthy definition of the types of materials which could not be sold to persons under 21 years is too vague and too sweeping for safety. The bill attempts to shove this definition under the umbrella of recent United States supreme court decisions on obscenity by quoting key words from them, badly out of context.

If a citizen signs a complaint that somebody has obscene materials in his possession, the bill says, police must report the fact to the local district attorney who then must issue a warrant against the presumed offender. This would deny the prosecutor his essential discretion in screening out groundless or vindictive complaints. It could open the door to a flood of vicious actions by citizen against citizen.

Wisconsin's present obscenity law is adequate to deal with the problem of hard core pornography. It makes no attempt to define obscenity, leaving it to judicial determination. Any attempt by the legislature to write its own definition risks running afoul of first amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and press.

The bill would set potentially dangerous precedents, permit unshackled snooping by a state board of censors and invite the invasion of individual rights. Its constitutionality is dubious. Despite its powerful sponsorship, the legislature should kill the proposal.—*Milwaukee Journal*, 18 March.

## MLA Scores One

The Winona city council on 6 March formally opposed anti-smut measure being considered by the Minnesota legislature, and already passed by the House. Action by council was urged by members of the Minnesota Library Association, who pointed out that under the proposed bill, libraries could not circulate such items as the *World Book Encyclopedia* or the *National Geographic Magazine* to persons under 18.

In St. Paul on 8 March, a librarian and a minister testified they would both be guilty under the proposed law. Roderick McDonald, Anoka County Librarian, apparently speaking on his own, also mentioned *National Geographic Magazine*, and Rev. Willis Merriam, member of the legislative committee of the Minnesota Council of Churches, said he would have to toss out a good portion of his library or cut pictures from the books.

## The Nibblers

It is clear that Federal Judge Harold R. Medina has plenty of grounds for his observation that a lot of judges are "just itching" to impose rules on how much news the police may give the press in criminal cases.

It is the view of Judge Medina that when the day comes that we have judicial censorship of the press that will be a very sorry day for the American people. And we agree with him.

Judge Medina is chairman of a special committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, which has been considering the question of judicial controls on news released by the police.

The judge, who is a senior judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals, notes in his report that the Constitution clearly establishes that the judiciary has no control over the police, which represents the executive branch of the government.

Judge Medina calls on both the press and the police to use self-discipline.

We must not permit any nibbling at the protection guaranteed by the First Amendment to a *press totally free of censorship*, whether the nibbler be a power-hungry judge or a local police chief or a desk sergeant.—*Waterbury, Conn. Republican*, 1 March.

## Banned in Middleboro (Mass.)



—*Boston Herald*, 5 February

## Oath Bows Again

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court agreed with the Justice Department on 14 February that the non-Communist disclaimer once required in administration of the Medicare law cannot be enforced constitutionally.

The court reached this view without hearing an appeal filed by the American Civil Liberties Union. It simply followed the suggestion of the department that the appeal is moot because the government will make no further effort to enforce the regulation.

This has the effect of giving national weight to a ruling by a three-judge federal panel in Los Angeles Nov. 14 that the disclaimer requirement was unconstitutional. The matter is no longer a live issue in view of the Supreme Court's declaration of mootness.

## Beware of Government Censorship

The Texas Legislature will move cautiously, we hope, in considering an obscenity bill introduced by Rep. Jack Ogg of Houston. There's too much government censorship in it.

The bill would authorize local law enforcement officials to ban obscene movies, books, magazines and pictures if they violate Texas standards of decency—whatever they are.

We do not disagree with the good intent of this bill. But experience shows that all attempts by government to tell citizens what they can or cannot read or see or hear should be approached with great trepidation.

The problem, of course, comes in trying to determine just what constitutes obscenity. One man's smut may be another man's Academy Award or Pulitzer Prize winner.

The U.S. Supreme Court has wrestled many times with this problem. The best definition of obscenity it has come up with is: Whether to the average person, applying contemporary community standards, the dominant theme of the material, taken as a whole, appeals to prurient interest and is utterly without redeeming social value.

The court has been particularly strict in recent years in preventing zealous censorship boards from interpreting this loose definition too narrowly.

Houstonians had an excellent opportunity last fall to see just how vague is this definition of obscenity. The Justice Department brought suit against three companies for distributing allegedly obscene books, and the eight-week-long trial was held in this city in Judge Joe Ingraham's court. The dispute was hotly contested on each side, and in the end it proved inconclusive. The judge declared a mistrial after the 12 members of the jury failed to reach agreement on whether or not the seven books were obscene.

This led Judge Ingraham to suggest to federal prosecutors that they take a "long, hard look" before proceeding to a new trial. The best solution, he said, might be to leave such questions to the individual and to hope that education and cultivation of better tastes would provide satisfactory answers.

That's equally good advice for the Legislature.

Some need may exist for tightening up control over the objectionable movies which are available for young audiences. Dallas is on the right track by having its board of classification so label all movies which are objectionable for children under 16. This in no way restricts adults, however.

In any event, if there is to be censorship, it should not come at the hands of local law enforcement officials. They are equipped neither by training nor background to make the subtle literary and art judgments which even judges and professors of literature cannot agree upon.—Houston *Chronicle*, 20 February.

## A State Librarian Responds

February 27, 1967

Eloise Ebert  
State Librarian  
Oregon State Library  
Salem, Oregon

Dear Miss Ebert:

We of the \_\_\_\_\_ Elementary School are in need of a little guidance from you, if you will be so kind.

A complaint has come in from the Local P.T.A. president criticizing a book *Humorous Poetry for Children* by Cole. We did not take it too seriously at first, since the book seems to be on the accredited list, but she is now expecting to take it to the school board. Could you please give us your opinion on this? Should we do as she demands and take it off the library shelf?

Please accept our grateful thanks for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Librarian

March 2, 1967

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ :

I realize that it is very embarrassing to have the local P.T.A. President criticize a book in your library as we need and appreciate the support of P.T.A. leadership. One great human quality which we all need in meeting many of these awkward situations is a sense of humor. I would hope that you, members of your faculty, and the school board would be able to treat this episode lightly as it is very apparent that the P.T.A. President doesn't have a sense of humor.

If you concede to her request, or support this action before the school board, in my opinion, \_\_\_\_\_ could be made the laughing stock of the state. No library or librarian could possibly endorse every sentence or every paragraph or every poem in every book in the library. However, you have chosen this title with care . . . as the Introduction says "This book is full of the two best things in the world—laughter and poetry." Would you throw in the sponge to someone trying to deny children . . . laughter and poetry? I wouldn't.

Sincerely yours,  
ELOISE EBERT  
Oregon State Librarian

## Letters Toward a Review

I.

8 March 1967

Dear Everett:

Pamela Hansford Johnson has written a short book entitled *On Iniquity*\* which has a subtitle, "Some Personal Reflections Arising Out of the Moors Murder Trial."

It seems that she makes a point that the obscenity and pornography so readily available had something to do with the murders. If you would like to review the book for the *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom*, I'll send it to you.

LeRoy Merritt

II.

22 March, 1967

Dear LeRoy:

I'm sorry to turn you down on reviewing the Pamela Hansford Johnson book after seeming to dawdle in making up my mind. I wanted to have a look at it first, finally bought a copy, and now have decided I'm not up to writing a useful review.

I could say some of the obvious things about it, and point to some of the provocative questions she raises, or perhaps just report the argument précis-like, but what I would want to be able to do and am not capable of doing is to make some reasonable judgment about Lady Snow's conclusion that the reading of sado-masochistic literature may encourage iniquity. My own equipment in this regard is of course completely inadequate. Since Pamela Johnson writes as a 'layman' I should think it would be preferable for the *Newsletter* to have some comment from a 'professional'—perhaps a psychologist, a sociologist, or a criminologist.

It will be interesting to see what the general book reviews do with the book. It is an important one, and quite impressive. It will be much misunderstood. Some will cite it approvingly for many of the wrong reasons. Many will probably damn it easily, since, as she acknowledges, many intellectuals hold to a position of 'total permissiveness.'

Thanks for calling my attention to such an interesting study, and forgive me for not helping you out this time.

Everett Moore

IV.

March 24, 1967

Dear Everett:

Your letter of 22 March fascinates me. You may not know it, but you have reviewed the book. May I run your letter as is?

LeRoy Merritt

III.

30 March, 1967

Dear LeRoy:

No, I guess I couldn't object to your publishing my letter as is. It is still just an explanation, though, of why I could not review the book, and not a reasoned review.

May, 1967

If I had reviewed it, I would have raised the important question not satisfactorily answered by Lady Snow in the book as to what kind of effective controls over 'dangerous' literature can be applied which might not ultimately be more dangerous than the literature itself. Such controls would tend to be iniquitous, I think.

Everett T. Moore  
Assist. University Librarian  
UCLA

\*Scribner's, 1967. 142 p. \$3.95.

## Weekly Reader, Scope Lashed by Board Member

BUNKIE — An attempt to ban the publications "Scope" and the "Weekly Reader" from Avoyelles Parish schools failed yesterday.

Defeated board member Dr. S. R. (Pete) Abramson, attending his last board meeting, called the publications un-American.

He was opposed by Supt. of Schools Lyndon Couvillion who said, "If you eliminate these, you must censor everything that goes into your schools."

The board unanimously approved use of additional publications suggested by Abramson, including "Human Events," "The Wanderer," "Review of the News," "Independent American," and the Houston Chronicle.—Baton Rouge *Star Times*, 10 December.

## Gasman Wins Book Case

Ralph Watson, a 52-year-old former service station operator, in Chemult, Oregon, won a \$9,000 fight to clear his name on charge of selling obscene books when his original penalty was only a \$100 suspended fine. Watson, at the request of truckdriver customers, kept a small stand of paperbacks including a line called "Night Stand." The Sunday Oregonian (Feb. 19) reports that Watson's 4-year fight included a district court trial, a circuit court trial, a hearing before the Supreme Court, and a final trial in which he was declared innocent. It all started when the Klamath County District Attorney stopped for gas, bought the 75c paperback, "Lust Pad" (one in the Night-Stand series), a novel relating the adventures of a midwestern girl who goes to Greenwich Village and finds, of all things, sex. The D.A. read 2 chapters, declared the book obscene, and told Wilson, "We're going to make an example of you." The D.A. appeared as his own "expert" witness, even though he admitted that "the only novels [he] had ever read were in a sophomore literature class in college during 1939 and 1940." Another witness, Mrs. Edna Karczag, the Klamath County Librarian, was called by the D.A. but she testified that Lust Pad was tame compared to detailed descriptions of sexual intercourse in Lady C, Fanny H, etc., which had been cleared by the U.S. Supreme Court. Watson was aided by the Portland ACLU which won for him a unanimous verdict of innocent. (AB Quote: "Watson was asked if he would go through the 4-year fight again to beat a \$100 suspended fine. 'It is hard on the constitution, but absolutely I'd do it all again'").—AB, 13 March.

## Teacher Suspended for 'Ghetto' Drama

DETROIT (AP)—A teacher at a junior high school in a deteriorated area of Detroit has been suspended for encouraging his students to produce a play about life in big city ghettos.

The play has been performed several times in Detroit-area churches.

Leslie Biederman, 24, was suspended by school authorities who called the play objectionable.

Parents of children at the school say they will protest to the school board.

"The play contains a number of items objectionable for use in school with junior high school students," said Arnold A. Meier, regional school superintendent, in a letter suspending Biederman.

The play was written by Hugh Whipple, 41, a Wayne State University instructor. It was first produced last year with priests playing two parts.

Whipple said two words—"damn" and "hell"—were written into the play by a Jesuit priest who wanted the dialogue to "sound realistic."

Among the play characters are two prostitutes.

"Every time we've produced the play, young children have been in the audience," Whipple said.

He said his daughter, Rhonda, 15, has played the part of one of the prostitutes.—*Santa Ana Register*, 26 March.

## Schools in Suburbia Stand Fast

Two small groups of parents in suburban Maryland and Virginia are mounting separate attacks on what they regard as lewd literature being taught in public schools.

In Montgomery County, seven parents met Tuesday with the principal of John F. Kennedy High School in Silver Spring and a teacher who, they say, is exposing their children to *indecent poetry*.

And in Fairfax, about a dozen parents are trying to purge titles by Aldous Huxley, John Steinbeck, Nevil Shute and Virginia Woolf from a reading list used in county high schools.

The Montgomery parents, three of whom have children attending Kennedy and two of whom are members of the conservative Council for Better Education, complained about poems that Robert Barber, a 10th grade English teacher, had mimeographed for study.

Principal Paschal Emma yesterday said the group also told him they were concerned about the use of J. D. Salinger's "Catcher in the Rye" in County schools.

Dr. Emma said the parents' complaints, "though sincere," will not result in any change in curriculum at the school or action against the teacher.

In Fairfax, about a dozen parents are seeking a meeting with Principal John W. Alwood at Edison High to protest use of the works by the four authors.

At present, however, the school has no intention of dropping the books, according to Edison officials. Vice Principal Maurice Alton, who called the parents' efforts "conscientious," said they are complaining about passages "taken out of context" from the works. Titles in question are: *Grapes of Wrath*, *On the Beach*, and *Flush*.—*Washington Post*, 30 March.

## Poor Speaker He's Not

Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas said yesterday that the Court might be acting unconstitutionally when it decides censorship cases.

Citing the lack of an "established body of law" regarding censorship at the time the Constitution was written, Douglas said, "Unless you go in for administrative fiat as to what is good and bad," the Court does not have constitutional basis for deciding what is objectionable.

Speaking before a workshop of the Freedom to Read Committee, Douglas also said he felt the First and Fourteenth Amendments guarantee the right of the individual to speak or print as he wishes.

The Justice said he was a "poor choice" as a speaker on censorship, because "I don't believe in it."

"Let there be a free market place" for printed material," Douglas said, "and let the guardians be the churches, the parents . . . and not the Government."—*Washington Post*, 19 February.

## Author Claims Ad Ban

Efforts to promote and sell a new paperback book, *The Nigger Bible*, by Robert DeCoy, have been thwarted by the Los Angeles *Times* and local white book stores, it was charged Wednesday at a press conference at 1302 W. Santa Barbara Ave.

DeCoy told newsmen that his representative, Eddie Atkinson Jr., had tried to place classified and display advertising in *The Times*, but had been refused on grounds the title of the book was too controversial.

"It was obvious," DeCoy said, "that *The Times* advertising department objected instead to the unorthodox content of the book rather than its title."

He pointed out that *The Times* did not reject advertising for Comedian Dick Gregory's book, *Nigger*, placed by the Doubleday Publishing Co., two years ago.

A local radio news announcer the past few years, DeCoy said his representatives had also been stymied by the owners of the Pickwick Book Store in Hollywood, one of the biggest in Los Angeles.—*Los Angeles Sentinel*, 26 January.

### Huck Takes His Lumps

Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* came under fire in Pasco, Washington on 21 March, when Episcopal Rev. Howard P. Hawkins, former president of the local NAACP, asked that the American classic be removed from high school English classes. Rev. Hawkins read only far enough into the book to see the word "nigger" appear about 100 times. On 5 April it was reported that Pasco public librarian Harriet Putnam had removed the book from the shelves because she feared it would be mutilated. *Tom Sawyer* was removed for good measure. And at the high school the librarian reported that two copies of *Huckleberry Finn* had been stolen.

## 'Dirty' Books in Schools

From time to time, usually in a small town, Connecticut is afflicted by the complaints of well-meaning people that school children are being exposed to "dirty" books—sometimes even required to read them as part of an English course.

This time the complaint comes from Burlington, where two parents are demanding that the Board of Education set up a committee to "screen" all books used in English classes in Mills Regional High School. The book to which the parents object this time is *To Kill a Mockingbird*. In other towns and other years, the books have been *Huckleberry Finn*, *Catcher in the Rye* and similarly familiar titles.

This time, one of the objectors seems at least to have read the book she attacks. She says it contains "descriptions of sexual activities" and "a courtroom scene in which charges of rape are made." She says the novel is "clearly biased in favor of Negroes." "It's socialism or Communism; even deeper than that, it's humanism. She (the English teacher) is trying to make a god of the human body."

The truth is that people who make hysterical attacks on good books are often trying to make something evil of the human body. To them, sex is dirty and degrading and any reference to it is filthy. How Communism gets into the argument is puzzling, except that anything undesirable must be Communistic.

It should not be necessary to make any defense of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It is a beautiful book. Children who read it will learn—if they do not already know—that people have sexual appetites and that there is such a crime as rape. They will also learn that injustice and hatred exist, that the poor and the downtrodden are often the victims of those truly evil things, and that goodness, nobility, courage and truth are just as much characteristic of man. They will learn, too, that those good qualities can be found in poor people because poverty and goodness are not mutually exclusive.

The chairman of the Burlington Board of Education said that at next month's meeting the board would surely deal with the issue. It is to be hoped that the board will deal with the real issue—whether a dissident parental couple, obviously without understanding or appreciation of this novel, is to be allowed to begin a process of unjustifiable interference with the process of education.

The direction of that process is entrusted to the school board. The execution of the board's policies is the responsibility of the school administrators and teachers. The board, the school staff and the public all should be dedicated to the proper education of children and the means by which that education can best be accomplished. That includes the freedom of an English teacher of good reputation and qualifications to choose a reading list for her pupils.

The facts of life—all the facts, including the existence of good and evil, of love and hatred—should be taught to children as a coherent entity. The teaching should be frank and honest, and it should not ignore beauty. Certainly no child would read *To Kill a Mockingbird* with a leer.—Hartford, Conn. *Times*, 20 March.

## The Adventurers

NAMPA — Plainclothes policemen of the Nampa force, removed "The Adventurers," written by Harold Robbins, from the newsstands of several local stores this week.

Police are reported to have removed approximately 30 of the books from Nampa stores. Police Chief Buster Baker refused to comment on the action taken by the department. He also refused to name the book.

Mayor Ernest E. Starr, when questioned about the incident, quoted Nampa Municipal Code, Distribution of Obscene Literature, Sec. 6-1-6—"It shall be unlawful for any person to offer for sale, sell, exhibit, pass, give picture, card print, paper, writing, mould, cast or figure or have the same in his possession, unless it is shown that the possession is innocent or for a lawful purpose."

"According to the Municipal Code," Mayor Starr said, "I would assume the chief thought he had the authority to pick up the books."—Boise, Idaho *Statesman*, 10 February.

## Press Bans OK'd in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP)—A new constitution substantially stretching the power of the executive branch of government will go into effect March 15, the day President-elect Arthur da Costa e Silva is sworn in.

The new constitution and a controversial law regulating the nation's press were approved Sunday in a marathon session by Congress. The two acts were among President Humberto Castello Branco's chief aims in his program to restructure the nation's basic institutions.

The press law imposes stiff penalties for publication of "classified" information and forbids foreign news agencies from distributing Brazilian news within Brazil.—Eugene *Register Guard*, 24 January.

## Censorship in Israel Stirs Up a Ruckus

TEL AVIV, Israel (Reuters)—A member of Israel's censorship board has submitted his resignation in protest against the board's ban of the movie "Motive For Murder."

The 20-member board decided by a majority decision that the picture of the first Israeli-made psychological thriller—"undermines the way of life and culture of the Israeli public."

Members decided to ban the movie, which was scheduled to be shown this week, from public exhibition. This was the board's first decision against an Israeli film.

The ban caused a storm in artistic circles and the press. Board member Haim Guri, a poet and columnist, tendered his resignation to the board, not because he liked the picture, but because there seemed to him to be no valid reason for the ban.—Santa Ana *Register*, 16 December.

## Appearance of Censorship

Two disturbing examples of apparent attempts by the Pentagon to exercise unwarranted control over both news reports from Vietnam and reading matter available to our troops there have recently come to light. Though "censorship" is officially a naughty word in each instance, it is a word that does come to mind.

Military court martial jurisdiction has been extended to all civilians, including newsmen, "serving with or accompanying" U.S. armed forces in Vietnam and adjacent waters. Concurrently, the Pentagon has dropped a Presbyterian Sunday School magazine from its list of publications recommended by chaplains—by coincidence (or not, as the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education maintains) just after an issue of the magazine printed a 12-year-old girl's poem about a napalm bombing in Vietnam. (This order was later killed by McNamara, LCM).

There has long been a feeling that reporters were not permitted to tell the full story of the war. Censorship fears will be heightened by extension of the court martial jurisdiction to newsmen. That is provided for "in time of war" for civilians "in the field" under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The Army says a state of war exists, and apparently interprets "in the field" to mean anywhere in Vietnam.

Since no declaration of war has been made, it is a moot point whether the Code's "in time of war" phrase legally applies. Interpreting "in the field" to cover all Vietnam also may be disputed. At best, the Army's move aggravates the suspicion that it seeks, directly or indirectly, to blue-pencil what correspondents report.

Withdrawing approval of a well known religious publication which had been on the approved list in past years calls the Pentagon's motives further into question. If authorities do not relish being charged with censorship, their best move would be to avoid even the appearance of censorship.—*Terre Haute, Ind. Tribune*, 20 February.

## McNamara Reinstates 'Venture'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon isn't going to cancel its 13,000 subscriptions to *Venture Magazine* after all.

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara told his news conference Wednesday he had ordered Pentagon officials to make an abrupt about-face and not cancel its worldwide subscriptions to the protestant Sunday School magazine.

The Presbyterian Board of Christian Education said Tuesday the Pentagon had canceled the subscriptions because of a poem on the use of fire bombs in the Vietnam war. Written by 12-year-old Barbara Beidler, Vero Beach, Fla., the poem was entitled, "Afterthoughts On Napalm Drop On Jungle Villages Near Haiphong."

McNamara was asked at this news conference if he knew of the action and if he approved of it.

The defense chief smiled wryly and said, "I became cognizant after it was done. The magazine in question has been reinstated to the recommended list this morning."

Earlier the Defense Department had said cancellation of the 13,000 military subscriptions was recommended by the religious education advisory group of the Armed Forces Chaplains Board.

The magazine, published by the Presbyterian board in Philadelphia, has a total circulation of 130,000.—*Santa Ana Register*, 16 February.

## 'The Catcher in the Rye'

North Kingstown School Committee members last night postponed their decision on the book *The Catcher in the Rye* which has drawn a couple of recent complaints from parents of high school students.

After a round of discussion on the theme of the book, committee members informally agreed to put off any decision on a reply to the parents until all members have read the novel.

Objections to the book came to light late last week, explained School Supt. Hiram A. Davis when one parent called him and another called Kenneth S. Fletcher, committee chairman.

In each instance the parents questioned the reason for the inclusion of the book in the sophomore, junior and senior English curriculum and objected to certain language phrases used in the book.

The novel, written by J. D. Salinger, has been on a suggested reading list in the school system for three or four years, explained Mr. Davis. It has been used in many school systems, he said.

At present, the book is included on a suggested reading list from which students can select novels to read as part of a literature course. If a girl student desires, said Mr. Davis, she can read the book for the course but is not required to discuss it aloud in the classroom and is allowed to excuse herself from the room.

Several committee members who read the book commented they felt it had some literary value and was an example of the modern American novel. None who read the book voiced any objections.

The book, Mr. Davis said, is about a 17-year old youth "trying to mature the hard way."

A complaint was made to the high school about the book last year, said Mr. Davis, but the query was answered by the high school staff. The recent complaints are the first instance that the school administration has been directly questioned.

"I feel," said Mr. Fletcher, "that if a parent does not understand the reason for a book being in the school system, we should give an explanation."

Despite the language used by the youth in the book, noted Mrs. Barbara Swanson, committeewoman, the boy is called to task several times in the book for his language.

"It's a keen insight into the adolescent mind," noted Mr. Davis. "It's part and parcel of the American way of life."—*Providence Journal*, 7 March.

## Partial Victory

A Baltimore importer of nudist magazines who relied on freedom of press rights succeeded yesterday in having a temporary court ban on the distribution of his product set aside, but not without a dissent from Judge Albert V. Bryan.

The case centered on the Customs Service seizure last December of a shipment of "girlie" magazines imported into Baltimore from Europe by the Reliable Sales Co.

Subsequently, U.S. District Court Judge Roszel C. Thomsen of Baltimore ruled that some, but not all, of the magazines were obscene. Those declared obscene should be destroyed and those not obscene should be returned to the importer, Judge Thomsen said.

Dissatisfied in part with Judge Thomsen's ruling, Thomas J. Kenney, U.S. district attorney at Baltimore, appealed to the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals here that portion of the order directing the return to the importer those magazines declared not to be obscene.

In connection with the appeal, Kenney obtained a temporary stay of Judge Thomsen's order directing the return of those magazines declared not to be obscene. That stay was lifted yesterday in a 2-1 decision by the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court.—*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 5 April.

## Nude Male Mags Nixed

RICHMOND, Va. (UPI)—While artistic values may vary, magazine pictures of nude men, even in color, can't qualify as art works similar to those of Michelangelo, a federal court ruled Thursday.

The possible landmark decisions came in a U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals decree that the Danish magazine "Hellenic Sun" was an obscene attraction for male homosexuals.

"The pictures have no apparent artistic value. They have no semblance of the qualities of Michelangelo's David," said Judge Clemente E. Haynesworth, chief of the appeals court.

Haynesworth said the magazines, 19,500 copies of which were seized by U.S. Customs Service agents in Baltimore before they could be distributed, were "Raw in the extreme, and with no redeeming attributes.—*Santa Ana Register*, 17 February.

## Book Ban Battle Won

A Salem pastor who lost his case against a "vulgar" book that was required reading in a high school reacted today with a question:

"Why is the Salem School District not as careful about screening morally offensive books as it is in banning Bible distribution by the Gideon Society?"

The Rev. Eugene McCoy, 2372 Electric St. S.E., commented on findings of a special review committee of educators which Feb. 10 considered the paperback, *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles, after the Rev. Mr. McCoy had complained in December about the paperback.

A 15-year-old sophomore at North Salem High School, he said, was assigned, along with his class, the job of reporting on the book, which deals with teen-age boys in a military school in World War II.

The boy, a member of his congregation of the Church of God at 990 Boone Road S., had started to read the book and refused to read further when he encountered instances of using "the Lord's name in vain," the pastor said, "and it seemed to be a common expression among the young people in the book."

The Rev. Mr. McCoy said that the book "insinuates homosexuality," and refers to illicit love affairs with one of the sisters. The boy's English teacher allowed the student to substitute another book for "A Separate Peace" after the complaint was lodged.

"It's a sad commentary on the times when you can't put a good book in the schools like the Bible—one of the highest books there is when considered from literary value."

The review committee concluded that "A Separate Peace" deals realistically with the problem of guilt and innocence on the adolescent level; deals with the teen-agers' ethical values, and is written in an excellent literary style.—Salem, Ore., *Capital Journal*.

## Current Bibliography

Browne, Malcolm W. "The New Face of Censorship." *True*, IIL (April, 1967), 38-39, 91-95.

Cray, Ed. "The Press and 'Clean.'" *Library Journal*, XCII (1 March, 1967), 945.

Frank, John P. "Obscenity: Some Problems of Values and the Use of Experts." IN *Obscenity, the Law, and the English Teacher*. (Champaign: National Council of Teachers of English, 1966.) Pp. 3-47.

Friedman, Leon. "The Ginzburg Decision and the Law." *American Scholar*, XXXVII (Winter, 1967), 71-91.

Hogan, Robert F. "Obscenity and the Teacher: Another View." IN *Obscenity, the Law, and the English Teacher*. (Champaign: National Council of Teachers of English, 1966) Pp. 51-61.

Kellogg, Peter J. "Near Tyranny at Lincoln University." *Focus Midwest*, V (No. 35, 1967), 24-29.

Kelly, Marguerite. "Banned in Washington: The Books Kept Off Library Shelves." *The Washington Post Potomac* (9 April, 1967), 16, 19-20, 22, 38.

MacKinnon, William. "Seven vs. Smut." *Report*, V (March, 1967), 21-23.

Manchester, William. "William Manchester's Own Story." *Look*, XXXI (4 April, 1967), 62-77.

Van den Maag, Ernest. "The Case for Pornography Is the Case for Censorship and Vice Versa." *Esquire*, LXVII (May, 1967), 134-135.

Wellman, Tom. "Student Expression Censored at Missouri University." *Focus Midwest*, V (No. 35, 1967), 24-29.

The *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* is published bi-monthly by the American Library Association at the University of Oregon School of Librarianship in Eugene, 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, Illinois 60611.

# INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND THE TEENAGER

Preconference of Intellectual Freedom Committee

Co-sponsored by YASD and AASL

Jack Tarr Hotel

June 23-25, 1967

The preconference on INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND THE TEENAGER will address itself to the problem of the librarian's responsibility to adolescents in relation to difficult literature. Through addresses, panel discussions, group workshops, and general discussion, an attempt will be made to explore all the concerns that beset librarians and to point to as many solutions as possible.

On the first day of the preconference the program participants, who are experts in their fields, will enlighten librarians with the particular perspectives of their professional skills in sociology, education, law, literary criticism, and theology. On the second day all the program participants will be librarians and library trustees.

The group discussions will be guided by group leaders, and their reports, together with a summary of the speeches will be presented at the final meeting on Sunday morning.

## Friday, June 23

Registration—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m.

Opening Session—9:30 a.m.—12 noon

Introduction to the preconference

Ervin Gaines, Chairman, Intellectual Freedom Committee

Speakers:

Dr. Edgar Z. Friedenberg, Professor  
Department of Sociology, University of  
California at Davis

"The Well-Being of the Teen-Ager"

Reverend E. Larry Beggs, Minister of Youth

The Congregational Church of San Mateo

"The Moral Influence of Reading on  
Teen-Agers"

Luncheon—12:30 p.m.

Panel Presentation—1:30 p.m.—2:45 p.m.

Robert Kirsch, Book Review Editor  
*Los Angeles Times*

Two additional panelists to be announced

Small Group Workshops—3:15 p.m.—4:30 p.m.

Dinner Meeting—6:30 p.m.

Speaker:

Stanley Fleishman, Los Angeles Attorney  
"Librarian's Legal Responsibility to the Teen-  
ager and His Legal Rights If Attacked"

## Saturday, June 24

Panel Presentation—9:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Alex Allain, Library Trustee  
St. Mary Parish Library  
Member, Intellectual Freedom Committee

David Cohen, Librarian

Plainview, New York High School

Third panelist to be announced.

Luncheon—12 noon

Speaker:

Esther Helfand, Adult Services Consultant  
New York State Library Extension Division

Small Group Workshops—1:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

## Sunday, June 25

Summary Session—10:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Registration for the conference (\$23.00) includes registration fee, two lunches and one dinner. No lodgings are provided for the conference. Participants will need to make own arrangements. See January ALA Bulletin, pp. 79-82.

## REGISTRATION FORM

If you wish to participate in the pre-conference "Intellectual Freedom and the Teenager," fill out this form and return it with your check for \$23.00 (checks should be payable to American Library Association). The fee includes registration and three meals.

Name.....

Address.....

Position.....

Return to: Intellectual Freedom Office, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.