



newsletter

ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

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No. 6

U. S. Government Creates Commission On Obscenity and Pornography

President Johnson on 3 October signed into law H. R. 10347 (Public Law 90-100) which had been amended to correspond to S. 188, and which had passed the Senate on 21 September, and the House on 22 September. Major provisions of the new law are as follows:

AN ACT

Creating a commission to be known as the Commission on Obscenity and Pornography.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

FINDING OF FACT AND DECLARATION OF POLICY

Section 1. The Congress finds that the traffic in obscenity and pornography is a matter of national concern. The Federal Government has a responsibility to investigate the gravity of this situation and to determine whether such materials are harmful to the public, and particularly to minors, and whether more effective methods should be devised to control the transmission of such materials. It is the purpose of this Act to establish an advisory commission whose purpose shall be, after a thorough study which shall include a study of the causal relationship of such materials to antisocial behavior, to recommend advisable, appropriate, effective, and constitutional means to deal effectively with such traffic in obscenity and pornography.

COMMISSION ON OBSCENITY AND PORNOGRAPHY

Section 2. (a) Establishment.—For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, there is hereby created a commission to be known as the Commission on Obscenity and Pornography (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission"), whose members shall include persons having expert knowledge in the fields of obscenity and antisocial behavior, including but not limited to psychiatrists, sociologists, psychologists, criminologists, jurists, lawyers, and others who have special competence with respect to obscenity laws and their application to juveniles.

(b) Membership of the Commission.—The Commission shall be composed of eighteen members appointed by the President, after consideration of a panel of eighteen names submitted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and eighteen names submitted by the President of the Senate.

DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

Section 5. (a) Investigation and Recommendations.—It shall be the duty of the Commission—

(1) with the aid of leading constitutional law authorities, to analyze the laws pertaining to the control of obscenity and pornography; and to evaluate and recom-

mend definitions of obscenity and pornography;

(2) to ascertain the methods employed in the distribution of obscene and pornographic materials and to explore the nature and volume of traffic in such materials;

(3) to study the effect of obscenity and pornography upon the public, and particularly minors, and its relationship to crime and other antisocial behavior; and

(4) to recommend such legislature, administrative, or other advisable and appropriate action as the Commission deems necessary to regulate effectively the flow of such traffic, without in any way interfering with constitutional rights.

(b) Report.—The Commission shall report to the President and the Congress its findings and recommendations as soon as practicable and in no event later than January 31, 1970. The Commission shall cease to exist ten days following the submission of its final report.

POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

Section 6. (a) Hearings and Sessions.—The Commission or, on the authorization of the Commission, any committee thereof, may, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Act, hold such hearings and sit and act at such times and such places within the United States as the Commission or such committee may deem advisable.



"As long as their greatest minds are kept occupied trying to define pornography, we've still got a good chance."

—1967 Writer's Yearbook

(b) Consultation.—In carrying out its duties under the Act, the Commission shall consult with other Federal agencies, Governors, attorneys general, and other representatives of State and local government and private organizations to the extent feasible.

(c) Obtaining Official Data.—The Commission is authorized to secure directly from any executive department, bureau, agency, board, commission, office, independent establishment, or instrumentality, information, suggestions, estimates, and statistics for the purpose of this Act, and each such department, bureau, agency, board, commission, office, establishment, or instrumentality is authorized and directed, to the extent permitted by law, to furnish such information, suggestions, estimates, and statistics directly to the Commission, upon request made by the Chairman or Vice Chairman.

(d) Obtaining Scientific Data.—For the purpose of securing the necessary scientific data and information the Commission may make contracts with universities, research institutions, foundations, laboratories, hospitals, and other competent public or private agencies to conduct research on the causal relationship of obscene material and antisocial behavior. For such purpose, the Commission is authorized to obtain the services of experts and consultants in accordance with section 3109 of title 5, United States Code.

Noxious and Obscene —

Under a law passed by Congress, President Johnson is required to appoint a “national smut commission.”

Officially, this 18-member group will be known as the “Commission on Noxious and Obscene Matters and Material.”

It will set up an office, put together a staff, hold hearings, investigate traffic in this thriving business and ultimately make a report.

The commission will be composed of “experts”—although we wonder how many would admit to being “expert” in this field.

In any case, the commission will have a neat job cut out for itself. Not everybody agrees on what is smut and what ain't. Nobody knows the effects on young minds—which seems to be one concern of the sponsors of this legislation. (Most juveniles in our acquaintance know more than most adults, and are a lot less smirky about it.) And the Supreme Court definitely has taken a dim view (on Constitutional grounds) of any laws or rules tending to suppress such things as girlie magazines or so-called “erotic” literature.

Much of this stuff is junk, and some of the publishers must be an unsavory lot. Whether investigations and moral-sounding laws are good answers may be something else. But if the commission can determine where to draw the line to the satisfaction of a majority of the people it will have performed some type of miracle.—*Washington News*, 11 October.

Roswell Librarian Stands Against Censorship

I.

Roswell, New Mexico
September 18, 1967

To the Editor:

I am enclosing copies of the recent publicity surrounding my controversial “hippie” poetry reading at the Roswell Public Library, and wished to inform you of the circumstances leading up to this.

I came into this position with my eyes open—I learned of previous John Birch political and church-related obscenity harassment from other southwestern librarians — however the enlightened attitude of the board members I talked with at the interview made me discount any new difficulties.

Ill health kept me in bed and out of trouble for my first few months of administration at the end of 1966, but starting early in 1967 we were in the thick of it.

It started on a statewide level, with our own Senator Schauer introducing “anti smut” legislation which would have forced us to restrict our collection to material suitable for 12 year-olds. I took action locally and in Santa Fe to oppose this, and received a good deal of publicity for my opposition. The staff supported me loyally on this. You reprinted my letter written to the *Roswell Daily Record* of February 15. The legislation was later defeated.

On the heels of this a citizen's committee was formed to investigate both the library and local book and drug stores (the “Committee for Decent Literature” sponsored by the Parents Council); I managed to organize enough support to temporarily stop any coercive action by this organization (they had a large meeting—packed by both friends and foes), but I understand they are poised now for another strike.

However, they are not our main concern in this letter. Subsequent to the censorship try I was attacked by members of the John Birch Society for selling discarded books, an action which they claimed was destroying private enterprise (this was funny, since booksellers in town had just fought alongside me on the censorship issue) and was illegal because the books sold had either been donated or purchased with public funds. Their arguments came back at me from members of the city council when I presented our request for more funds in June (our budget must be begged for each year, as no tax funds are officially marked for library purposes). I of course asked the complainers whether they would rather I burn the books. That blew over.

In July we had a storm in a teapot over an “old timer” who as children's librarian (she had never had a library course) refused to accede to changes in procedure dictated by the need for economy (our budget had not been increased) and who resigned. Various women's groups, presumably at her instigation, protested the needed changes. It was then that anonymous telephone calls to influential people began, attacking me and members of my staff, and insinuations were made that the changes (although they were fully considered and approved by the board) had been made on my whim.

Since then we have had a few brushes with the opposition—the John Birchers asked us to take *their materials* off the shelves, as they were too valuable to be exposed to damage or theft (I refused)—imagine that! A bumper sticker which I had produced to raise funds for a scholarship (they sold for 25c) was found stuck maliciously to the paintwork of a late-model car owned by a non-library sympathizer and city hall screamed about that.

I have purposely avoided mentioning the other things we were doing at the library—such as using statistical comparisons, attempting to find other alternatives to our physical and financial predicament—and presenting cultural programs.

This last activity has been the cause of our current crisis. I had read the poetry of Burns and Browning (indeed had received “rave” reviews on some of these readings) and lectured on library matters and on Eastern religions. Then I scheduled a contemporary poetry reading, “hippie” poetry I’d brought back from the summer conference in San Francisco.

One would have thought I’d scheduled a workshop on methods of taking drugs! The reaction from a small but vociferous and influential segment of the community was immediate. The anonymous telephone calls began again. A sermon was preached against me in one of our churches. The city council passed a resolution condemning the use of public property for my presentation.

If you read the newspaper clippings which I’ve enclosed you will see that the board met to decide whether to permit me to continue the reading. They agreed to permit it to continue, but required me to clear future programs through them. Two board members voted to oppose the use of the library for the program, basing their opposition on the belief that all programs presented at the library should be suitable for children; I don’t think they understood that their vote, if passed, would have required my resignation.

In answering pressure from the board to move the program to another location, I said that I would countenance this only if we were overwhelmed by requests for reservations, and that I would resign if a move was required for reasons of simple dislike of the material to be presented. As it turned out, we were swamped with requests for reservations—but no larger facility in town could (or would) make its premises available.

After having been investigated by the board and condemned without a hearing by the city council, I was summoned to a special called meeting of “Friends of the Roswell Public Library.” This is an organization I had been instrumental in organizing some six months previously, but which has up until this time found itself unable to do anything constructive for the library.

The meeting was held on Monday the 11th of September (the reading was scheduled for the 14th). In attendance were some of the original members, and a large number of people whom I had seen at the Committee for Decent Literature meeting. Many of the latter joined the Friends on the spot. Also attending was the alderman who had sponsored the city council’s censure motion.

I spent a grueling hour and a half attempting to explain why libraries attempt to present adult programs,

how objective evaluation of necessary programs is made, and how libraries attempt to maintain the freedom of intellectual inquiry—most of this in answer to insulting and irrelevant questions and accusations on sex, pornography, and “four letter” words.

The meeting then went on to vote upon a resolution, which had apparently been drawn up previously, expressing complete disapproval of this program, and any future program which might be scheduled as suitable only for adults.

A call to find out if a quorum was present was disallowed by the chair, but it was later found out that no quorum was present and that a large number of Friends had received no notification of the meeting. An officer was advised “for her own good” to forget this information.

We went ahead with plans for the reading as scheduled, although there was talk of demonstrations, lock outs, “police action” and threats of withdrawal of public funds. No one had yet asked to see the poetry I would read.

The city council met a few hours previous to the reading and voted to withdraw all public funds from the library. Then they called in some members of the board, and after some discussion, reversed themselves. Board members rushed down to the reading to see that no further trouble ensued.

During the city council discussion, however, a number of things had been said which are going to need some answer. The board apparently hasn’t realized the implications of the threat made by the Mayor that continued city council (financial) support would be forthcoming only if “this kind of thing is not continued.”

My resignation is being submitted on the premise that no policy or administration can be made effective under such a threat. I have asked that the threat be withdrawn.

I am also demanding that certain personal remarks made by the Mayor about myself be clarified. He stated “McShean overlooks nothing to exploit his cause . . . there have been controversies ever since he arrived . . .” I feel that the board must demand some clarification of these charges. I can only presume that the cause which he refers to is better library services and facilities, and the controversies he claims to know of were raised by my requests and petitions for this same cause.

New Ill. Obs. Law

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—A bill outlawing distribution of obscene material to youngsters under 18 has been signed into law by Gov. Otto Kerner.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Robert Cherry (D-Chicago), sets a maximum penalty of one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine on a first offense, and three years in prison and a \$5,000 fine on a second offense.

The crime would be committed by anyone “distributing, exhibiting or offering” youngsters material appealing to prurient interests.—Chicago News, 15 August.

Incidentally, the reading went quite well, and I really should give another to satisfy the many people who were disappointed, but you will appreciate my reluctance.

The board will meet to discuss whether to confront city hall or accept my resignation in a day or so. The board's number has been increased by the Mayor's appointment of Mr. L. C. Stiles, the alderman who has consistently opposed any of our programs (including our budget request) to a position which had been vacant for a number of years, and which he had refused to fill on previous requests.

We also expect an imminent attack by the Committee for Decent Literature. I feel that the city council has shown itself so susceptible to unfounded, emotional charges that the slightest complaint from this quarter will find the library in the same pickle it is in now in a matter of days or weeks, regardless of how the board may be able to overcome the present difficulty, and regardless of whether my resignation is accepted or not.

I hope that you can sympathize with my feeling that I have taken as much abuse as can be expected, and that no purpose would be served by my continued service here. Roswell has forfeited its right to have a professional librarian, or have professional library services for many years to come.

Sincerely,
Gordon McShean

II.

You Aren't Normal

There may be people around who think it's important that citizens know what hippies are thinking and writing about because hippies represent a segment of society who have rejected life and traditional pursuits—family, job, prestige, etc.

But more people think that the hippie movement is so unimportant in the total scheme of things that to study them would be like trying to inspect a shadow under a microscope.

If you want to know more about hippies, attend the hippie poetry reading session at the public library Thursday night of this week. If you don't care to know more about them than you already know, don't attend.

Whatever its merit or lack of it, hippie poetry is a form of contemporary literature. It's a legitimate area of study—to understand why some people reject society.

If you haven't felt like kicking over the traces at one time or another, you aren't normal.—Roswell *Daily Record*, 10 September.

Ninety-Nine Cents

Under the July 4, 1967 Freedom of Information Act, the P.O. will search "or" furnish change of address of any person for \$1 ea. "The \$1 charge is not refundable if change of address information is not found." . . . However, the P.O. will not furnish address and/or telephone number of any boxholder "except for law enforcement purposes or in response to a subpoena or court order." [What price personal privacy?]
—AB, 4 September.

III.

McShean Gets Area Backing of Librarians

Thirteen librarians from southeastern New Mexico have voted unanimously to reaffirm their confidence in Gordon McShean as a librarian.

McShean came under criticism from the Roswell City Council and Mayor Gail Harris when he scheduled hippie poetry reading recently at the Roswell Public Library.

Ruth McGuire, Ruidoso librarian, said, "This group of librarians states again that a free public library must meet the needs and interests of all groups and has the right to schedule a program for a specific section of the population.

"Attention is called again to the American Library Association's statements on "The Freedom to Read" and to the Library Bill of Rights. These statements are available in your public library," the 12 librarians said.

Librarians from Alamogordo, Lovington, Artesia, Santa Fe, Picacho, Roswell, Ruidoso, Corona, and Carlsbad, signed the support statement. — Roswell *Daily Record*, 24 September.

IV.

It's significant that the Southwestern New Mexico Library Assn., representing many towns, has upheld the Roswell librarian in his reading of hippie poetry at the public library.

Librarians fight various forms of censorship all the time. They are tuned to the battle.—Editorial in Roswell *Daily Record*, 24 September.

V.

Board Refuses McShean Offer to Resign Post

The Roswell Public Library board of trustees Monday afternoon voted not to accept the resignation of Head Librarian Gordon McShean, whose announced plan to read hippie poetry in the library early this month touched off a fountain of controversy.

Castigated at a recent recessed meeting of the City Council, McShean said in his letter of resignation:

"I feel that neither the board nor the staff of the library can operate an efficient library facility under the threat made by Mayor Harris of withdrawal of support by the City Council unless 'this type of thing is not continued,' this type of thing meaning our recent poetry reading. . . . The administrator of a library must have the authority—and the confidence of his superiors—to present the best of literature to the public. This authority has been undermined by the mayor's statement and the actions of the city council. . . ."

After refusing to accept McShean's resignation, the library board passed unanimously a resolution proposed by Penrod Toles that the president of the board, Robert H. Beck, appoint a committee to draft a proposed communication from the library trustees to the mayor and city council discussing the council's recent action involving the library and suggesting other courses for handling future situations of a similar nature, and that the proposals be submitted for approval to all library trustees at a meeting to be called by the president.

Toles, Victor Bolognini and Russel Mann were appointed to the committee, which is expected to report to the board in the immediate future.

McShean said further in his letter of resignation:

"Is the future of the library to be threatened each time there is a hysterical outburst over nothing, as in the case of the 'hippie' poetry reading which prompted this threat? . . .

"Mayor Haris made the statement 'McShean overlooks nothing to exploit his cause . . . there have been controversies here ever since he arrived.' My cause? I was hired by the board to present a dynamic library program to the people of Roswell, and to work for the improvement of the library facilities. I have received professional recognition for what has been achieved in a short year. . . . We managed to increase adult circulation whilst the town was losing population.

"I can only presume that the controversies the mayor accuses me of having sponsored are the matters which we discussed on the floor of the council during the past year: my report on the survey, made with the New Mexico State Standards, which showed the library to be completely inadequate in 50 different areas, and my request for adequate financial assistance to keep the library operating (we had to cut library hours by more than one third after additional support was refused).

"I'm sure these meetings were painful to him—one does not like to hear of the shortcomings of the organization under one's responsibility. But silencing me will not cause the conditions which I described to disappear.

"How exploiting the 'cause' of improved library facilities and services relates further to 'hippie' poetry I don't know, except as I am required by professional obligation and personal conviction to uphold the freedom of intellectual inquiry. This is a cause and a freedom which more people in Roswell are going to have to stand up for. . . ."—Roswell *Daily Record*, 26 September.

VI.

On 5 October in an Open Letter to the People of Roswell, Librarian McShean wrote, "I am asking the board to accept my resignation this time as a simple request to be relieved of duty. I will stay the accustomed 30 days to 'wrap things up. . . ." The Board of Trustees accepted his resignation on 11 October.

Magazine Curbs Start in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (Reuters)—The government Saturday ordered a clampdown on "girlie" magazines in a fight to wipe out pornography.

Assistant solicitor-general Luio Sanchez Vargas ordered federal police to take action against the publisher of any magazine they regarded as pornographic. He also reminded them of laws banning "blue" films and distributing obscene literature by mail.—Spokane *Spokesman-Review*, 27 August.

Farmingdale (Cont.)

Bircher Library Trustee Charged With Assault

Carl E. Gorton, Farmingdale, Long Island's controversial library trustee and an avowed member of the John Birch Society, escalated his conflict with the Farmingdale Public Library on August 14, when one of his fact-finding forays into the library resulted in a scuffle, which in turn resulted in his being charged with assault by Mrs. Hortensia R. Stoyan, an assistant children's librarian at the library's South Farmingdale branch.

A warrant for Gorton's arrest was issued; he is, meanwhile, still awaiting trial on charges of petit larceny resulting from his confiscation of a copy of *Paris Review*, which he felt should not be in the library.

Conflicting stories exist in the latest incident; Gorton asserts that Mrs. Stoyan hit him with his own cane, and she claims that he twisted her arm and pushed her against a table when she tried to switch off a tape recorder with which he was attempting to interview another unwilling staff member, John Rothman, a children's reading consultant.

Another interesting sidelight came out when Gorton revealed that in the previous week he had made a midnight examination of the library's garbage cans, as "the only way I can get access to the library's files."

The library staff has said that Gorton telephones the library two or three times daily with inquiries, makes almost daily visits to the two branch libraries, and once broke into the children's story hour.

Orrin Dow, director of the library, reported that on one occasion, when the cleaners were at work, Gorton entered the library four hours after closing and went through the records on the secretary's desk. Gorton, said Dow, has been intimidating the employees of the library with his activities; Gorton, in return, claims that he is just doing his duty as a trustee in learning as much as he can about the library.

Despite the lack of cooperation, the recently-elected trustee has come up with some specific charges. He has accused the library board of favoring a single maintenance firm instead of putting the contract up for bids, and he has accused one of the library's film suppliers as being connected with Communist front groups. The firm in question, Brandon Films, is on the library's budget as supplier of a copy of *The Red Balloon*. At a hearing during which the charge was made, however, it was pointed out that Brandon is also distributor of *Choice*, a Goldwater campaign film, and *Brother Rat*, which starred Ronald Reagan.—*LJ*, 15 September.

Some Good News

The controversy which has divided the community of Farmingdale over its public library has finally been removed as an issue from the 1967-68 budget. Taxpayers of the district approved the budget this week after three tries.

What still remains to be settled, however, is the controversy itself. It has been raised by a newly elected library trustee, Carl E. Gorton, who claims that obscene and pornographic literature is too easily available on library shelves.

Gorton has been charged with *removing a magazine he considers to be obscene* and with assaulting a library employee during one of several explosive incidents in which he has been involved before and since his election as a trustee. Employees charge that he has made unreasonable demands of them and he, in turn, has accused the director of ordering reading material from a distributor he says dispenses communist propaganda.

The issues he has raised and the manner in which he has raised them are so inflammatory and unprovable that under the best of circumstances it is not an easy matter for responsible library officials to answer them or to cool tempers. Who is to say what is obscene or what is communist propaganda since even the highest courts and the best legal brains in the nation are unable to agree?

The hope is that taxpayer approval of the budget will provide the community with a breathing spell until after Gorton has had his day in court. Meanwhile, Farmingdale will continue to reap the educational benefits of a public library freed of the chains of financial uncertainty.—*Suffolk Sun*, 31 August.

This Is Free Speech?

Last month the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a certain group of "girlie" magazines, which an Arkansas court had found obscene, were protected from suppression by the First Amendment's free speech guarantee.

This month the National Labor Relations Board prohibited employers from showing their employees copies of Robert Kennedy's book "The Enemy Within," which describes some typical problems and abuses found in labor unions.

Are we to infer that free speech is all right for smut peddlers but not for honest industrialists? Or are we to believe that children are so tough-minded that it's all right for them to be exposed to pornography, but that union members are so tender-minded that they can't stand being told a few facts of union life?

On the title page of the Kennedy book is Thomas Jefferson's ringing declaration that: "I have sworn upon the altar of God, eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man."

How about getting the NLRB to take a similar vow—and live up to it?—Salt Lake City *Deseret News-Telegram*, 17 June.

My Secret Life

A clerk in a downtown Syracuse bookstore was arrested on 18 September on obscenity charges based on offering for sale copies of *My Secret Life*, three volumes of which were confiscated. The store involved was one of two which had been scored by an editorial in the previous day's *Post Standard*. Arresting officer declined to say whether the editorial had anything to do with the raid.—Syracuse *Post-Standard*, 19 September.

DAR vs. Udall

(Baez in the Middle)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Daughters of the American Revolution asked Monday that folk singer Joan Baez not be allowed to give a concert on the Washington Monument grounds, but Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall ruled that the show could go on.

The DAR based its objections on reports that Miss Baez had refused to pay part of her federal income taxes because she disapproved of the United States conducting the war in Vietnam.

On the same grounds, the DAR had refused her the use of their building, Constitution Hall. Miss Baez said if she couldn't sing in the hall she'd sing free Monday night at the base of the monument.

Secretary Udall said through a spokesman that Miss Baez had not been charged with evading taxes, indicted or convicted.

"Over the last six years," his statement continued, "we've made this facility available for a whole variety of people of all shades of opinion. This included George Lincoln Rockwell, leader of the American Renaissance Party.

"We view this as a form of free speech, Miss Baez is a distinguished artist and just as we made this facility available to Lincoln Rockwell, it will be available to Miss Baez. We see no reason to discriminate against her."—Portland *Oregonian*, 15 August.

Intellectual Freedom in San Francisco

Report of Council Actions

Council approved the revision of the Library Bill of Rights, which was presented by Ervin Gaines, chairman of the *Intellectual Freedom Committee*. The committee had made two minor changes in the version which appeared in the April issue of the *ALA Bulletin*:

Paragraph 5 now reads: "The rights of an individual to the use of a library should not be denied or abridged because of his age, race, religion, national origins, or social or political views." One word in paragraph 6 was changed, from "providing" to "provided."

Another report from the INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM COMMITTEE was approved, relating to recently revealed secret subsidies to publishers by the United States Information Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency. The ALA president was directed to forward a request from ALA to the President of the United States and other federal officials that all such sponsorship of publications "be disclosed in a suitable manner," including acknowledgment of financial assistance.

Ervin Gaines, committee chairman, also reported the conclusions of the preconference on "Intellectual Freedom and the Teenager"—that young people have the same right of access to books as adults, that a legal defense fund should be established for librarians, that the Intellectual Freedom Office be established at headquarters, and that ALA undertake a study of the effects of reading on behavior.—*ALA Bulletin*, July-August, 823-825.

Libraries Turning Down New Racy Novels

If you want to be educated, go to a library.

If you want to be entertained by one of the racy best sellers like "Valley of the Dolls," go to the drug store—you won't find it on any library shelves.

This is the advice many public librarians, including those in Hartford, are giving. And it reflects how the role of the public library has changed.

The paperback book industry, television and movies have taken the brunt of entertaining from the library stacks, according to Edwin G. Jackson, head of the Hartford Public Library.

"Our primary goal today is education," he says, explaining why the library will not, necessarily, buy books simply because they are on best seller lists.

"We have standards and don't feel it's our responsibility to provide this sort of poorly-written book ("Valley"), adds Dorothy Drysdale, assistant Hartford librarian. "We must reflect current fiction including light reading which is often shocking . . . and collect the best of what's published."

This viewpoint has, in the past, led to questions about whether or not a public library should provide what the public wants, or thinks it wants.

"We don't censor books, but we don't select all that's available," maintains Mr. Jackson, admitting "we're not always right."

For instance, Miss Drysdale said, there is an "adult shelf" in the library stocked with books "not written for the general public."—Hartford Times, 6 September.

'Flaming Creatures' at MU

Three University of Michigan students and an Engineering English instructor were ordered on 31 August to stand trial on charges of displaying an obscene motion picture. The four, all members or officials of Cinema Guild, were bound over to Washtenaw County Circuit Court for trial Sept. 15 following completion of a preliminary examination yesterday. The case arose from the showing of "Flaming Creatures" at Cinema Guild last January. The film was seized by Police Lt. Eugene Staudenmeier after 14 minutes of it had been shown.

Municipal Judge Samuel J. Elden, in handing down his ruling, said "Not only is the film outrageous, but it tends to be a smutty purveyance of filth and borders on the razor's edge of hard-core pornography. It far exceeds the customary limits of candor. This court cannot and will not believe that 'contemporary community standards' will accept showing of a film vividly portraying . . . acts of perversion and sexual deviance."

Elden said the police acted properly in seizing the film without a search warrant. If Staudenmeier had waited for a warrant to be issued, he said, "justice would have been totally frustrated." Elden quoted a decision on "Flaming Creatures" handed down June 12 by U. S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren in a case involving a showing of the film in New York.

"Under the standards set forth in Roth v. U.S." Warren said, "the film is not within the protection of the First Amendment."—Michigan Daily, 1 September.

N.Z. Tribunal in Trouble

I.

To the Editor:

The enclosed clipping from *New Zealand Newsletter* reveals how hollow even "liberal" legislation can be. This is particularly so in a country where Parliament is supreme and the Courts have no clarificatory role. I am glad to see that the New Zealand Library Association is protesting (the present tribunal includes a librarian), but it appears unlikely to outweigh the anguished cries of teenagers' parents. In the past the Association has not always spoken out and doubtless feels the same moral pressures as other groups in a small community to preserve the old-time values. Recently, however, it has been much more vocal and has a strong interest in seeing that the Committee in question is not filled with appointees who regard anything written since 1940 as poisonous. Whatever else it was, the Committee was a great advance on the right of search and seizure previously exercised by zealous Customs officials, which, since everything must come into New Zealand by ship or plane, was a great harassment to individuals and to libraries. But politicians customarily pay attention to the noisy wind, and it appears that the Committee will be so reshaped as to resemble very closely just another branch of the Customs, which is a pity since I had always thought Mr. Hanan a very good Minister of Justice.

Murray S. Martin
Chief Acquisitions Librarian
Pennsylvania State University

II.

INDECENT PUBLICATIONS TRIBUNAL —

Changes would be made in the personnel of the Indecent Publications Tribunal, which it was clear, had not interpreted the will of Parliament, the Minister of Justice, said in Parliament August 15. The tribunal had sparingly used its power to restrict the sale of books or to classify them so that they could not be sold to those under 18. The chairman of the tribunal, Sir Kenneth Gresson, said August 16 he had recently offered to resign, but Mr. Hanan had rejected the offer. He challenged Mr. Hanan to say how the tribunal had failed to interpret the will of Parliament. Mr. Hanan said he agreed with Sir Kenneth that censorship was a matter of opinion. The difficulty was that opinions differed. Complaints against decisions by the tribunal had reached such a volume that he would have been failing in his duty if he had not dealt with the issue in Parliament, said Mr. Hanan, August 17. The tribunal's decisions might have pleased the intellectuals, but had appalled many parents of adolescent children. *The Customs Department found it "completely impossible" to examine every book imported to NZ, said the Minister of Customs, in reply to Mr. N. V. Douglas, O., Auckland Central, who had asked if the Department was failing its duty. *The president of the NZ Library Association, Mr. D. M. Wylie, said August 17 his association was concerned at the attacks on the tribunal. His association believed that the tribunal had acted responsibly. *Mr. Hanan's "trenchant criticism"

was unwarranted, said Sir Kenneth, August 18. The argument had blown up out of all proportion. The tribunal was doing a difficult job reasonably well. Mr. Hanan August 18 denied accusations that he was bringing pressure to bear on the tribunal. *A retired senior stipendiary magistrate at Auckland, Mr. L. G. H. Sinclair, may be the tribunal's new chairman, says the political correspondent of the "Dominion."—*New Zealand Newsletter*, 14 August.

III.

29 September 1967

To the Editor:

The book *Glover* by Francis Pollini, published by the New English Library Ltd. . . ., has been declared indecent in terms of . . . Section II. . . . The statement by the Chairman published in the *New Zealand Gazette* of 6th July reads: ". . . The book is a 'paper back' similar in content and language to other 'paper back' publications which we have not held to be indecent. But we take a different view in respect of this book. The main theme is an account of the sexual activities of an American airman, related with much detail; he is depicted as being brutal in his approach to women and girls and to have shown some violence. We think it warrants condemnation. The book contains, too, some account of the code of life of the American Air Force which in our opinion cannot be regarded as an honest and faithful portrayal."

One does not know whether to laugh or to weep. The N.Z. film censor has also always been hard on violence, letting some "honest sex" get through in preference. The transparent, political implications of the last sentence reveal, if anything, an endearing naivete. Where then do we draw the line, and must all non-fiction, too, be examined for its truthfulness?

In general anything at variance with the current view of what the average honest New Zealander should be doing and thinking is automatically suspect. It was something of a surprise that James Baldwin's *Another Country* got through so easily, soon after the tribunal began operations. Now it might not. — Murray S. Martin.

Censors Stop Some Cables

PEKING—Revolutionary rebels, as supporters of Chairman Mao Tse-Tung's revolutionary line are known here, have begun getting press dispatches sent by foreign correspondents in the Chinese capital and have refused to authorize transmission of at least two cables during the weekend.

Both my French colleague and I were informed Saturday morning that cables we had written on street demonstrations and other matters Friday night were not transmitted. Some Japanese colleagues have reported similar experiences.

This appears to mark a new phase in the operations of foreign correspondents in China and it appears to mark the beginning of de facto censorship—a measure Chinese authorities have always spurned in the past.—Eugene Register-Guard, 26 July.

Nude Mags Obscene in Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Nudist magazines are legally obscene in Florida, at least in Pensacola and other cities with similar "contemporary community standards."

The North Florida District Court of Appeal in its first ruling on the obscenity issue since the U.S. Supreme Court decision of 1966 in which the magazine *Eros* was banned, upheld the convictions of five newsstand operators of violating Pensacola's ordinance making the sale or distribution of obscene printed material unlawful.

The court recognized that seizure of the magazines by a police officer without warrants was illegal procedure but said that since defense counsel had not objected to their being offered in evidence at the trial, the appellants had waived right to object on appeal.—*Jacksonville Times-Union*, 9 July.

Letter from Stuttgart

Commercial pilots are subject to political danger at Arab airports. In a circular letter, German Lufthansa warns its flight-captains that customs officials in Tripolis (Libya) and Tunis (Tunisia) confiscate all magazines and newspapers aboard landed aircraft. If pictures or reports in the seized publications are declared "anti-Arabic," the flight-captains are held responsible and may face imprisonment.—*Der Spiegel*, 24 July 1967, p. 20.

Also, on 20 July Munich authorities destroyed some 100,000 copies—practically the whole run—of issue no. 29 of the *National-und Soldaten-Zeitung*, a right-wing, pro-NPD weekly. Its first page had juxtaposed photos of Hitler and Moshe Dayan. A seldom-invoked West German statute prohibits the reproduction of Nazi symbols. The NSZ is a most unpleasant paper and the Dayan-Hitler comparison was surely tasteless. Still, the government acted under a palpably flimsy pretext, for swastikas and Hitler-pictures often appear in West German publications (for example, on the 24 July *Spiegel* cover, as well as p. 93). Tastelessness, strident nationalism, and flagrant bias are to be expected from the NSZ, they come as no surprise, but it is distressing that the West German press seems wholeheartedly to have approved what can only be described as an instance of crass political censorship. It is a hard lesson to learn: that freedom is even for people we don't like.—Sanford Berman.

Holloway Ed. Obs.; Others OK

On 20 July San Diego Municipal Court Judge Earl B. Gilliam ruled the two volumes of *The Complete Marquis de Sade* obscene and ordered the trial of two men charged with selling obscene literature. A jury of seven women and five men deliberated a day and a half after a three and half week trial during which they heard all 600 pages of the Holloway House edition read to them. Paul Henderson, newsstand owner, was found guilty as charged. Said the city attorney's office: "There are more 'faithful' translations of the Marquis de Sade, and these will not be challenged." On 18 September Henderson was placed on two years probation, and told to sin no more.

Safe and Censored

In the ten weeks since it seized power, the new military government of Greece has, at one time or another, turned thumbs down on miniskirts, radio transmitters, football games, beards, Beatle haircuts, indigent tourists and fireworks. Now the junta is considering theater. Banned are all performances that might "disturb public order, promote subversive theories, discredit the Greek nation or tourism, offend the Christian faith, the King or the government, undermine the people's social traditions, or harm the esthetic advance of the people—particularly youth."

Teatrical companies took one look at that majestic edict and began revamping their repertoires. The Epidaurus Festival of Ancient Tragedy discovered that it had no room on the schedule for Euripides' *The Suppliants*, a story of a free city-state triumphing over tyranny.

Sophocles' *Ajax* was also taken off the boards, as was Euripides' *Phoenician Women*. Aristophanes' bawdy political satires, *The Birds*, *The Clouds* and *The Frogs*, got the hook at the Athens Festival.

The gaps in the festival program are getting progressively harder to fill. In protest against the artistic restrictions laid down by Greece's governing colonels, the Kiev Ballet, the Budapest Symphony and the Moscow Symphony have all canceled scheduled performances. An English chamber-music ensemble has sent its regrets; the Los Angeles Symphony and the Philadelphia Woodwind Ensemble have joined the boycott. Athenians are faced with a summer of safe plays and sedate music by Italian chamber-music groups who are already in town and seem content to stay for a while.—*Time*, 7 July.

Judge Restrains Police

Jefferson Circuit Court Judge Daniel P. Marshall, Jr. issued a restraining order yesterday against the city of Louisville and its police, barring them from seizing further copies of the film "I, a Woman."

The order also restrained police from arresting David Cain, manager of the Crescent Art Theater, where the film has been showing since May 26.

Vice squad detectives seized one copy of the film Wednesday night and a second copy Friday night. On both nights, Cain was arrested on charges of showing an obscene film.

Third Copy Shown Last Night

Meanwhile, Cain had ordered a third copy of the motion picture, which was shown again last night, from the New York corporation that owns the Crescent.

The restraining order enjoined the city from seizing the film or arresting Cain "until said motion picture has been determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be obscene" as defined by Kentucky's obscenity law.

In a complaint filed with the restraining order, Thornberry argued that the seizing of the film had been done by police "without authority of law," in violation of both the Kentucky and U.S. constitutions.

Contents Due Process Denied

The seizures constituted a denial of due process of law and a denial of free speech, Thornberry said.

The complaint also alleged that Cain's arrest Friday night was done without authority of law because he had already been arrested on the same charge Wednesday night. Kentucky's obscenity law, revised by the 1966 legislature, has no provision permitting multiple charges, Thornberry contended.—Louisville *Courier-Journal and Times*, 11 June.

Censor Role Rankles Greenaway

He speaks in a quiet voice, and the soft tones rise only slightly when asked if he is an autocratic censor—a word that universally rankles. "In all my years, I have had only one complaint."

Only one complaint, but he is a censor. Greenaway is director of the Free Library of Philadelphia and, therefore, responsible for selection of the 12,000 titles it buys each year. The process of selection involves many of the system's 1000 employees, but the final responsibility rests with Greenaway.

He also is the final cog in the sensitive machinations of censorship—the process which evaluates controversial books that may violate the State Comic Acts.

Some books, Greenaway points out, become "restricted volumes," reachable with a "pink pass" certifying that the bearer is at least 18 years of age. These books, which are listed in the library catalogs, but which are available, include: *Fanny Hill*, *Tropic of Cancer*, and *My Life and Loves*. The sequestering of these volumes is made necessary by the sensitiveness of the 1955 Legislature.

That body decreed that "it shall be unlawful for any person to sell, offer for sale, attempt to sell, exhibit, give away, keep in his possession, with intent to sell or give away, or in any way furnish to anyone under the age of 18 years, any comic book, magazine or other publication which is obscene, indecent or disgusting, or which teach or advocate the use of narcotics."

The law grates a little on Greenaway and his assistants, for they are subscribers to the Library Bill of Rights, which holds that "censorship should be challenged by libraries in the maintenance of their responsibility to provide public information and enlightenment.

"Everything we possibly can we put on the shelves," he says.

But, pragmatically, there are two greater censors—finance and man's seemingly inherent desire to mar, destroy or steal items of value.

Finances limit the number of books to be purchased each year, and the citizenry's destructive capacity restricts the number of volumes that may be left on the open shelves.

Certain types of books, such as civil service exams and law books, are repeatedly the targets of thieves while art books are most often the objects of mutilation.—Robert L. Simpson, Philadelphia *Inquirer*, 26 Aug.

C-Note

"A book is neither moral nor immoral; it is either well written or badly written."—Oscar Wilde.

'Pends on Where You Live

AHMEDABAD, India (AP) — Information Minister K. K. Shah has offered to organize seminars on kissing on the screen.

Shah told a meeting here that the government wants to ascertain the views of the public before permitting kissing in films.

Kissing is taboo in Indian films and Western films are mercilessly pruned to avoid kissing scenes. Where they are permitted to be shown, only adults are sold tickets for such shows.—*LA Times*, 13 August.

How Do Parents Meet Obscene Books Crisis?

By Rev. Henry P. Ouellette

Q.—I have a son who is 16 years old. The other day while dusting and cleaning his room, I accidentally came upon some magazines featuring pictures of nude women. He works for a magazine distributor, and is given the damaged magazines free. He has brought home many wholesome ones, but these were positively disgusting.

Should my husband or I take these books away from him and burn them? Should we bring the matter out in the open and discuss it with him? We are very much upset about the whole thing. What do you suggest?—J.A.T., Roxbury.

A.—It is quite normal for your 16-year-old son to seek out knowledge concerning sex. His new sexual awareness also arouses his curiosity concerning the opposite sex. Youngsters at this age will attempt to gain this knowledge in various ways, some by anti-social behavior such as peeping, some by the socially acceptable method of reading well-respected magazines, such as *National Geographic*.

Let us remember that this is not idle curiosity, but rather a true and deep concern about an area of life that will strongly influence their future.

If we recognize these facts, then the way to handle this situation becomes somewhat clearer. It is not a matter of discipline and punishment but rather a matter of teaching correct attitudes which will help him in the future.

The boy must be impressed with the fact that his searching is good and legitimate, and better sources for this knowledge should be suggested to him. Also, his responsibility to younger members of the household or visitors should be pointed out to him as a reason for not introducing such books in the home. I would demand that he take them out of the house, but I would let him decide what he would do with them afterwards. In any case I would not burn them. What could be accomplished by such an action? The few books that you burn will certainly not effectively stop him from reading others if he wishes.

Your only hope is to appeal to his own personal sense of responsibility toward himself. Of course, if you decide to discuss the matter with him, and this is the first time that you have done so, just remember—you are

doing this years too late, long after many attitudes have already been implanted. Probably his inability to discuss this matter with you now is due to this very delay on your part. If your overall relationship with him is good, I'm sure your efforts will produce good results.

Above all, do not become alarmed and think that you have a pervert on your hands. I'm sure he is a normal, typically good boy who is looking for direction and knowledge in this important sphere of life.—*Boston Pilot*, 8 July.

England's Censor Asks Relief

For almost 400 years British playwrights and librettists have engaged in recurring contests with the lord chamberlain, who exercises absolute licensing power over what may be presented on an English stage.

Within a year this ancient system almost certainly will be abandoned, and public opinion—reinforced by ordinary criminal law—will decide what is morally and politically acceptable.

The present lord chamberlain, Lord Cobbold, announced a year ago that he believed the censorship duties of his office (he is also master of the royal household) were no longer appropriate. After a year's study, a joint committee of the House of Lords and the House of Commons has called unanimously for an end of the licensing system.

Since the lord chamberlain has made his own rules, the "acceptable" standards of theatrical fare have varied with the personal tastes of the man who happened to hold the office. Generally, he has barred comment on the royal family, and has frowned on dramatization of certain political subjects. In the field of morals the lord chamberlain has picked his way through a thicket. Lord Cobbold, for example, has permitted a playwright to refer to God as "a swine," but refused to permit "a bastard." He has banned some plays dealing with homosexuality, but has passed others.

It may be argued that censorship did not prevent an astonishing creative revival in the English theater since World War II. However, the revival occurred despite rather than because of the censorship. The lord chamberlain's licensing authority over the theater is a relic of a kingly power that is foreign to a democratic society. It is a mark of political maturity that the parliamentary committee should ask its termination.—*Louisville Times*, 29 June.

Israeli Censors Purge Hate In Arab Textbooks

JERUSALEM (AP)—A team of 30 Arabic-speaking Israeli educators is working its way through a roomful of Arab school books, closely reading every word, hunting for propaganda.

The books, nearly 400, were seized by the Israelis when they occupied the west bank region of Jordan, Syria's Golan Heights and the Gaza Strip last June.

The team's job is to cut out every word of what the education ministry calls "objectionable material."

So far, 79 of 134 Jordanian textbooks have been cut. One hundred of the 139 books found in Egyptian desks and two-thirds of those taken from Syria have been expurgated.—*Sacramento, Calif. Bee*, 27 September.

THIS We Endorse

(While Ignoring the Source)

A real, live, rolling bookstore is cruising the streets of the Archdiocese of Newark, N. J., looking for people who want something inspiring and worthwhile in literature. And it's finding them by the thousands!

Disgusted with the choking chaff which mingled so heavily with the literary wheat in so many of the 2100 retail outlets in the community, the Archdiocese in 1964 took the problem by the steering wheel, stepped on the gas, and just never got around to applying the brakes.

The beginnings were humble. Members of the Archdiocesan Legion of Decency borrowed a trailer from a paperback distributor, stocked it with as many good books as it would hold, and "with the help of volunteers, drove from school to school and parish to parish."

Results were so enthusiastic that the Legion decided to purchase its own trailer. The resulting "Bookmobile," capable of displaying 1500 titles, was designed to be mounted on a Chevrolet chassis. In three successful years, an operating procedure has been developed which places a minimum strain on the participants. The Mobile Store is left at a parish, school or shopping center for five days. Volunteer members of the organization which requests the visit handle all sales. On the two non-operating days of the week, Legionnaires restock the shelves and drive the trailer to its new location.

The Bookmobile is but a facet of the swinging campaign by which Newark CCA (Christian Communications Apostolate), under Very Rev. Paul J. Hayes, is waging a positive battle against the forces of shoddy and suggestive literature. CCA's proudest child is the sparkling Thomas More Paperback Book Center, located in the Essex Green Shopping Plaza in West Orange, opened in June of 1965. The archdiocesan program also embraces Bookfairs, School Library Services, a Book Information Center, Science Fairs, and a Center for Catechetical Materials.

Msgr. Hayes is especially encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by visitors and correspondents from many parts of the country. NODL salutes him and his organization and hopes that the germ of interest now being spread in Newark will inspire you and infect your entire community.—*NODL Newsletter*, Summer.

Police Censorship in Knoxville

Criminals continued to operate during the past weekend in the city and police continued to censor the news by keeping in force an order issued last Friday that all information must be released through Asst. Chief Joe Fowler.

Full details of several burglaries and a shooting incident couldn't be obtained because Chief Fowler was unavailable last night. When his unlisted telephone number was called, his wife said he was in a meeting.

Meanwhile, Police Chief Harry C. Huskisson returned to his desk yesterday after a week's visit to Memphis, but declined to rescind Chief Fowler's order.—*Knoxville Journal*, 12 July.

Freedom to Know

According to a survey conducted by the Freedom of Information Center at the University of Missouri, no country in the world has a completely free (or a completely controlled) press.

The center has been researching press controls since last summer. About 450 newsmen, broadcasters, and educators participated in the study which judged the world's press on 23 factors. At the outset, a "free" press was defined as "one in which newspapers, periodicals, news agencies, books, radio and television have absolute independence and critical ability, except for minimal libel and obscenity laws."

On that basis, the survey showed that less than half (45.2 per cent) stand somewhere in between. Countries with the highest degree of press freedom were listed as follows: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Guatemala, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

There were a few mild surprises: The Middle East, for example, was shown to have a greater degree of press censorship (in 1966) than most Communist countries. And England ("merrie England"), says the University of Missouri, has moderate, tending toward many, controls.

Freedom of the press is something most of us take for granted. But if, as according to this survey, press freedom is slowly slipping away in England, Italy, France, Japan, West Germany and other countries, we cannot afford to be complacent, even in the United States.—Columbia (S.C.) Sunday State & Record.—As reprinted in Selma, Ala. *Times-Journal*, 7 July.

"Candy" Almost Obscene

JEFFERSON CITY—The Missouri Supreme Court today all but ruled that the paperback novel *Candy* is an obscene book. It declared that a jury could well find that the book was intended to appeal to prurient interest in sex.

"Reasonable minds could find," the court said, "that *Candy* is an episodic account of rotten erotica, a sick saga of sex, a series of sensational sex encounters connected by a thin tissue of so-called 'plot' which serves as the excuse to hold it together."

At the same time, however, the court reversed the conviction of Rollin E. Smith, who was arrested after selling a copy of the book on March 31, 1965, to a St. Louis police detective. Smith, a clerk in a bookstore on McPherson Avenue, was sentenced to a 30-day workhouse sentence and fined \$500 in connection with the sale. He was tried before former circuit Judge Louis Comerford in the St. Louis Court of Criminal Correction.

The state Supreme Court, in reversing the conviction, held that Smith had been deprived of a fair trial because of Judge Comerford's biased handling of the case.—*St. Louis Post Dispatch*, 12 June.

On 12 July the *St. Louis Globe Democrat* reported that the case would be heard by the entire 7-man Supreme Court under an order of the court's Division One.—LCM.

No Sex in "Zoo Story"

ORADELL—RIVER EDGE—The Senior Humanities Program at River Dell High School has been attacked by alumnus Michael G. Newman, a 1960 graduate. A letter of criticism was sent to Acting Principal Richard Veit, asking River Dell Regional District Board of Education to review its censorship rights.

Newman, a graduate of Iona College and a veteran of the U.S. Navy, states that he is not a Victorian in any sense of the word. But he argues that the humanities curriculum does not seem suited to the emotions of adolescents.

The curriculum in question consists partially of two works by playwright Edward Albee—*Zoo Story* and *The American Dream*.

In Newman's opinion, the controversial books present a distorted concept of sex for teen-agers.

"Perhaps better examples of American fiction might be found by other authors," he said. "Albee's plays are only appropriate for students on the college level."

The entire issue was brought before the school board Monday night.

"I'm not in a position to refute Mr. Newman's comments," said Board President Walter H. Richters. "I have not read either book."

"I've read both," stated Samuel Alezraki. "Most people just don't take the time to understand Albee in the proper perspective. There is absolutely no sex in "Zoo Story" and, in my opinion, the more kids understand, the less corrupted they'll be."

When asked if the board is ever entitled to the right of censorship, Richters replied that the board is never expected to approve "background reading" for a course. "Neither of the two works are standard texts," he said. "They are selected by individual teachers."

The matter will be taken under the advisement of the board. Members were asked to become familiar with the works before the next regular meeting.—Paramus, N. J. Post, 18 June.

\$100 Fine

Municipal Court Judge Henry Esteva yesterday fined St. Petersburg newsstand owner Eddie Reed \$100 for selling and displaying *The Pleasure Professor*—a paperback book the judge deemed "obscene."

"If this book is not obscene then no book is obscene," Esteva said.

Salesman Fred Nichols, of Seminole, testified that he purchased *The Pleasure Professor* Feb. 27 at Reed's newsstand. He bought the book, he said, because he considered the title and cover "risque." He had not read the book.

With Nichols at the time, according to testimony, was the Rev. O. Dean Martin, who said he purchased *Depraved*, another paperback book.

Both Nichols and Martin signed affidavits charging Reed with selling obscene literature. The charge that *Depraved* allegedly is obscene is still pending. Defense attorneys indicated they would appeal Esteva's ruling in *The Pleasure Professor* case.—St. Petersburg Independent, 7 June.

"Lord of the Flies" Off

Members of the Glendale Board of Education (with Martha Williams voting no and Donald Butler absent) fell headlong into the black hole of censorship when they voted to ban a book from the reading list for use in senior high school classrooms.

Despite any protestations that the board members who decided to ban the book were not attempting to act as censors, that is exactly what the action they took turned them into. And that isn't the job they were elected to perform.

The book in question, *Lord of the Flies*, isn't particularly pleasant reading. But neither are a lot of other books which reflect life and which are now acclaimed as masterpieces of world literature. Having to do with a bunch of kids stranded on an island as the result of a plane crash while being evacuated from Britain because of an atomic raid, the story indicates what might happen under such circumstances when the group seeks to organize as a social entity.

What happens, rather predictably, is that some of the youngsters try to get things going on a civilized basis and others turn into young savages.

As explained by members of the teachers' Secondary English Curriculum Study committee, which selected the book among others for school use, it is part of a package unit of modern literature dealing with man and his environment.

An indication of the effort that was made to provide a balance is that one of the other books is "Lost Horizon," whose characters are about as far distant from those in the "Flies" as Shangri La is distant from modern life.

But the board members, in their wisdom, have decided that the banned book is "not a true picture of society today," which obviously it isn't, any more than is "Lost Horizon," and that it is "not in the best interest of the students."

The fact remains, however, that young people are reading the book (and undoubtedly will be reading it in far greater numbers, now that it has been proscribed) despite the fact that, like Henry Miller's works, it is pretty boring reading.

In this situation I find myself in agreement with Mrs. Williams, a former English teacher, who said: "I would prefer to have them read it in class with an adult present who can guide them and lead a discussion on the merits of the book."

Presented as one of many books indicating various philosophies and aspects of life, Mrs. Williams feels that "in that context it would be of more value than if read alone with no other books or ideas for comparison."

But the Board majority decided differently and the book is off the reading list. I doubt if any student is going to be particularly handicapped by not studying "The Lord of the Flies," or "Lost Horizon," for that matter.

A first step has been taken, however, on an exceedingly dangerous course—that of censorship of reading material. It is to be hoped that the Board will think twice before taking an even more dangerous second step.—Carroll W. Parcher, Publisher, Glendale, Calif. News-Press, 9 June.

On 20 June the Board of Education listened to numerous citizens in the audience—most with strong opinions regarding the board's action deleting a controversial novel from supplementary reading lists at the high school.

A majority of those who spoke, teachers and laymen alike, voiced opposition to the board's June 6 action which banned formal classroom use of William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*.

Glendale Teachers Assn. President Gordon Pearson was the first of the stream of protesters. He spoke briefly and then handed Board President Sheldon Baker a sheaf of petitions signed by the teachers in the district—members of GTA as well as the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

Another petition—signed only by English teachers at Crescenta Valley High School—also was presented to the board.

The petitions all asked trustees to reconsider their previous action.

A resolution censuring the three board members who voted for deletion (George Howenstein, Scott MacDonald and Baker) accompanied the GTA petitions.—*Glendale Independent*, 21 June.

Joliet Convict Sues over Banned Book

Who's afraid of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*?

Officials of the Illinois state penitentiary at Joliet are.

They've banned printed copies of Edward Albee's play from their list of reading material available for the jail's inmates.

This has so angered one prisoner that he has made a federal case out of it, filing a suit in United States District court here challenging the ban.

The prisoner, Ralph Bellamy [no relation to the actor] contends that the ban violates his constitutional rights. He is seeking a court order directing Ross V. Raldolph, Illinois director of public safety, and Warden Frank J. Pate to let him order the book.

Pate, in a reply filed yesterday with the clerk of the court, said he imposed the ban upon the recommendation of Charles Tuttle, the jail's superintendent of education.

Tuttle, in an accompanying affidavit, said he suggested the ban after he read the play and discussed it with other jail officials.

He said the recommendation "was based upon what I regard as undue emphasis in the play on obscene or four-letter words, marital and extra-marital sexuality, sexual frustration, and the erosion of the marital relation."

The Joliet penitentiary which offers college-level courses for its inmates, has a library containing 78,000 books and permits inmates to order other books if authorities approve the selections.

Bellamy, who is serving a 3-to-10-year sentence for armed robbery, has successfully obtained two other books.

They are *The Invisible Man* and *How to Read the Financial News*.—*Chicago American*, 13 June.

Classical High Has a Problem

A group of Classical High School students who are compiling an off-campus newspaper reportedly were told yesterday they must accept a faculty adviser with *editorial powers* or face unspecified punishment.

The leader of the group, Ann Finger, reportedly was threatened with suspension if she does not cease publication or agree to the censorship.

The students say they have used no school equipment or office or time in working on the project. Their planning and editing sessions have been held at their homes after school hours, they said.

William T. Macdougald, school principal, denied last night that any suspension threat had been made. He also denied that any censorship was involved.

"I told them I have no objection if they want to publish this paper as long as it's in good taste, and not critical of any faculty member or any student," he said.

The proposed faculty adviser, Mr. Macdougald added, "would not be a censor, but would be someone who would be a reading consultant for them. These young people need direction."

"If we have any publication at the school, we have to have a faculty adviser," he continued. "If it is a completely outside publication, not intended primarily for Classical students, then I would have no objection. But I guess I'm not convinced that it isn't."

Mr. Macdougald said that no decision will be made until the students talk with school officials again this morning.

The developments yesterday came a week after the resignation May 25 of the editor of the official school newspaper, the *Classical Review*.

Mark Levine, a senior who held the post of editor in chief, said he resigned because the school administration and the paper's adviser have "adopted a policy aimed at repressing and silencing the opinions of students and teachers who wish to express themselves on significant and controversial matters."

He said he had been denied permission to print editorials and letters to the editor about the lack of a student council at Classical, about the Vietnam war and other subjects.

He said he also has been denied an opportunity to explain the reasons for his resignation either in the student paper, the school bulletin or through a mimeographed handout.—*Providence Journal*, 2 June.

CH Had a Problem

Classical High School this morning made journalistic news—it's going to have two newspapers instead of one.

The decision grew out of a dispute within the official school paper, the *Classical Review*, where student editors *charged censorship*.

William T. Macdougald, school principal, today said he has permitted the dissident group to publish its own paper free of censorship and sell and distribute it in classrooms. It will not be officially recognized, however, he said.

Ann Finger, leader of the group that walked out of the *Classical Review*, said the new publication will be called *Amendment #1* and should appear before the school term ends.—*Providence Bulletin*, 2 June.

As They See Fit

This annotated list* of 163 American periodicals is a tribute to those who fail to play the game. Instead of acting "cool," the publishers are red hot. All are eager and anxious to either rip-up or patch-up the Establishment. In a word, they are controversial.

Indication of scope may be garnered from the six subject headings: civil rights and Negro, left of center, right of center, pacifist, race oriented, and miscellaneous. The editor has made a judicious division between liberal and conservative, rational and kook, and idealist and pessimist. Excluded are fairly well known mags such as the *New Republic* and the *National Review* and publications dedicated to sexual evolution such as *Playboy*. Religious beliefs are touched upon, but there is no specific subject approach. Incidentally, the primary fault with an otherwise excellent publication is the failure of the editor to supply a subject index. He settles simply for a title index.

For each entry the full name of the mag is given, address, date of first publication, format, frequency, price, circulation and the dates of issues which were examined. This is followed by a detailed, totally objective annotation which notes purpose, scope, audience and typical articles. One particularly valuable addition is the "editor's response." Each of the annotations was submitted to the editor for comments, and these were either incorporated into the revised note or printed in part after the annotation.

The descriptive notes run from two or three paragraphs to a full page. They are uniformly fine, in fact, no other periodical list in any subject area can rival this particular compilation. When the reader has finished the annotation he not only knows the editorial policies of the magazine, but can easily establish its worth, both qualitatively and quantitatively for the library.

Which brings up the whole purpose of Mr. Muller's effort: "The compilation is primarily designed to provide information to librarians to help them in the task of selection, so that they can proceed, as they see fit, to create an awareness by the public of the existence of propagandistic or polemic periodicals expressing dissident, opposition or minority opinion." The key phrase is "as they see fit." John Berry's survey of holdings of such magazines in public libraries ("Demand for Dissent," *Library Journal*, XV, Oct. 15, 1964.) indicates that few librarians will see fit to do a darn thing except ignore Mr. Muller's fine work. The argument usually runs that the periodicals are not indexed, albeit a more honest answer would be that the librarian is guilty of rank censorship under the guise of "selection."

Granted, it is not easy for one of rational, liberal persuasions to subscribe to *The Cross And The Flag*. Issued by Gerald L. K. Smith, this hate rag upholds racial integrity, "white civilization, Christianity, and conservative economic and political policies and attacks organized Jewry, Communism, and integration."

* Muller, Robert H. (ed.) FROM RADICAL LEFT TO EXTREME RIGHT: Current Periodicals of Protest, Controversy, or Dissent-U.S.A. 157 p. index. Campus Publishers (711 North Univ. Ave., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108) \$4.85.

Yet, with a circulation of some 40,000 it ranks well in terms of popularity with many of the dead center periodicals dutifully indexed in the *Readers' Guide*. It is obviously important to a segment of the population which any concerned American should at least recognize, if only to learn how to combat.

A left handed compliment is paid the editor by Mr. Smith who thanked him for the description of *The Cross And The Flag* and then: "You are to be congratulated on your scholarly undertaking."

Anyone familiar with the Marat/Sade play, Little Orphan Annie and Freud will enjoy this compilation on still another level. It makes marvelous reading. Finally, it can be used by even the most straight-laced librarian at a magazine counter for the detection of off center titles which some soul may try and give the library.

Every library in the United States, and points east and west, should have a copy of this valuable publication. Better yet, there might be a multiple order—one for reference, one for acquisitions, and a third for the bottom of the librarian's drawer.

In the ever on-going struggle for complete freedom, Mr. Muller has made a major contribution. Let's hope someone beside Gerald L. K. Smith recognizes this scholarly undertaking.—Bill Katz, Professor of Library Science, *Albany, N.Y.*

Notes from Europe

Freiberg, 11 July, 1967

Stuttgart, sometime in March. In a lecture on the role of Amerika Häuser in Germany, the local USIS Director enunciated an interesting "mainstream theory" of book selection. He was proud, he said, that Amerika Haus libraries do not furnish *Howl, Last Exit to Brooklyn, Tropic of Cancer, Naked Lunch, Dissent, Evergreen Review, American Opinion, The Dutchman, Church and State, Another Country, Ramparts, The Realist, Candy, W.E.B. DuBois, Jules Feiffer, Nat Hentoff, Norman Thomas, In White America, Zinn's SNCC, Nazi-Chief Rockwell, Liberation, Human Events, Suicide of the West, Accidental Century, Presidential Papers, Malcolm X Speaks, MacDonald's Against the American Grain, Air-Conditioned Nightmare* or Paul Goodman. He hoped they never would. Such books, periodicals, and writers are unrepresentative, outside the "mainstream." By implication, they are not quite "American." By no means does such a policy qualify as "censorship," he held, slightly offended at the suggestion. After all, the library has Fulbright's newest volume, *Goldwater's Conscience of a Conservative, Eisenhower's Memoirs*, and subscribes to *The Reporter!* Oh, rapture! Oh, nuts!

I believe and want to underscore that the problem of USIS policy is most serious, for the present "mainstream" stance betrays a stifflingly conformist, illiberal, regressive—yes, basically totalitarian philosophy. It surely does not square with the "Library Bill of Rights" and can hardly promote much respect for us among literate folk abroad. It is from variety and ferment that both our strength and vitality spring.

Athens, 21-29 April. Strange to spend a first night in the "cradle of democracy" jarred from sleep—three hours long—by staccato bursts from automatic weapons.

Trigger-happy juvenile delinquents in Greek Army uniforms—American equipped—roam the empty streets. Tanks and half-tracks blockade the center of town. Ten machine guns have sprouted atop the Parliament Building. Steel hatted troops swarm over the Olympic Stadium. Small cannon pivot below the whitewashed Byzantine chapel on Lykabettus Hill. Not even tourists can reach Acropolis on Friday, the 21st. Later, jet fighters will buzz the city in fancy formations. And a whole squadron of warships is soon to anchor, intimidatingly, in the Piraeus Bay.

“You can buy English and Paris-published American papers the same day of their publication, usually toward the late afternoon.” — Fodor’s *Greece, 1966*.

Like hell you can! The “latest” papers, dated 20 April, have already begun to yellow in clothes-pinned tiers at downtown kiosks, the headlines—in English, German, French, and Italian—proclaim Adenauer’s death. Each day he seems to die afresh. The blackout is a really touching display of confidence in their own citizenry by the new government . . . “Censorship of the press,” claimed Col. Papadopoulos, the prime minister’s aide, “even during the first five days had been interpreted so broadly that it had no connection at all with the censorship of other times.” The colonel must be a careful student of Greek Mythology . . . As just how great a pack of simpletons does the *Putsch* regime regard the public when it peddles as fact that “documentary evidence” for the planned Communist takeover filled no less than 70 3-ton trucks! . . . Two young German travelers aboard the Athens-Munich “Hellenic Express” think that a stern military government may be exactly what Greece needs for perhaps two years. To end party wrangling and restore order. Which is just how their parents probably reasoned some 34 years ago when the little Austrian Corporal promised to straighten things out . . . What has proven more disturbing than the calamity suffered by Greece itself is the indifference—if not *sympathy*—demonstrated by foreigners here toward the coup. I have yet to meet *one* who feels a “gut reaction” to the sight of tanks and bayonets on city streets . . .

Soviet Union, June 5-20. To Russian readers, the “latest” and most popular American writers are Steinbeck, Frost, Hemingway, and Dreiser. Baldwin, Henry Miller, Mailer, Heller, Selby, Bellow, Patchen, Rexroth, Ellison, W. C. Williams, Ginsberg, LeRoi Jones, Corso, Burroughs, Ferlinghetti (who in January appeared with Andrei Voznesensky, the Soviet bard, at a dual poetry reading in West Berlin’s Akademie Der Kunst): None of these names evoked even a glimmer of recognition . . . and although a few Russians could identify Peter Weiss — alone among contemporary authors—it seems that none of his work has yet been published in the Soviet Union, nor has “Marat/Sade” appeared on any Russian stage. No doubt it’s much too ambiguous. Not nearly positive or inspiring enough (like the thousands of gleaming white, bigger-than-life, mass-produced figures—heroic workers, farmers, athletes, and cosmonauts—that grace the Soviet Roadside) . . . a bronze or stone Lenin, arm outstretched in exhortation, dominates the Main Square in nearly every village and town. His earnest visage inhabits countless

posters. A whole museum in Moscow traces and exalts his life, while hordes of ordinary citizens every day wait patiently in line for hours to glimpse his embalmed cadaver outside the Kremlin walls. But nowhere could I find a single bust, portrait, or photo of Leon Trotsky. “Rootless cosmopolitan,” “left deviationist,” “counter-revolutionary traitor,” he has slipped completely and silently down the Orwellian “memory hole” . . . The only foreign-language newspapers freely available at kiosks and libraries are CP organs like the French *L’Humanite*, British *Morning Star*, East German *Neues Deutschland*, and *American Worker* . . . On the German-language shelves of the Kursk Public Library, sits a DDR-produced critical study of postwar German poetry (Grass, Enzensberger, Celan, etc.), but the library stocks no *whole* book of verse by any of the “interpreted” writers; readers must be satisfied with the few tantalizing excerpts supplied by the East German critic to suit his own ends . . . At Chernotsky, over jiggers of vodka, two well-groomed, smooth-talking chaps insisted that Sinyavsky and Daniel fully deserved long prison sentences for publishing “seditious propaganda” abroad, (e.g., *The Trial Begins*, a novel under the pseudonym “Abram Tertz”). Naturally, their whole knowledge of the case was derived solely from Soviet Press Reports. They had never read the condemned articles and books, only the meager, out-of-context quotations made by the prosecutor in court . . . Just days before the Middle East crisis had erupted into war, vituperation against Israel overflowed the Soviet airways and editorial columns. Yet a schoolteacher in Or’ol admitted—although reluctantly—he had *never* read nor heard that Arab leaders for years have stridently, openly vowed to exterminate the Jewish State . . . Jews, incidentally, account for 40% of the Chernotsky population, but no public school offers instruction in either Hebrew or Yiddish. Similarly, 300,000 Jews live in Moscow, where there is not even *one* kosher restaurant. . . . To say “Marc Chagall” is to invite blank stares.

“Igor Stravinsky” wins much the same reaction. (The solitary Stravinsky score I noticed for sale in a Moscow music shop was “Petrouschka,” nice, but hardly his most recent or pioneering work.) . . . At the Bolshoi, a brilliantly-danced ballet, “Assel,” *premiered* only a month earlier. Yet Tchaikovsky might have composed the music . . . And from the pretty lips of a guide at the Turgenev Museum: “Russia can do without any of *us*, but we cannot do without Russia” . . . Now, on a brighter note: a Moscow University student, after bitterly relating how authorities had suddenly banned—one day after it opened—an exhibit of modern art by young Russian painters and sculptors, resolutely declared, “We are not as stupid as our government thinks.” . . . He warmly endorsed the letter by Alexander Solzhenitsyn (Author of *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*), still circulating privately among Russian intellectuals, which sharply criticizes literary censorship. “Literature,” Solzhenitsyn maintains, “cannot develop between the categories ‘Permitted’ and ‘Not Permitted.’ Literature which does not breathe the same air as contemporary society, which cannot communicate to society its pains and fears, which cannot give warning in time against moral and social dangers, does not deserve the name of literature” . . . And the

Student Drama Club at Kiev's Foreign-Language Institute is currently producing "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"

A few news items and reports from West Germany, published in *Vorgänge* and *Mitteilungen*, both Humanistische Union (roughly equivalent to the ACLU):

The movie industry's Self-Regulating Board [Filmselbst Kontrolle] in Wiesbaden lately refused permission for "Changers in the Temple" [Die Wechsler in Tempel], a short film, to be screened publicly. According to the board, the film tendentiously falsifies historical truth and offends religious sensibilities. A first Examining Committee earlier reached this same verdict with a smaller majority; the second (so-called Main Committee) actually approved the film; while the third (Legal Committee) finally declared the ban after a 5-hour long debate . . . Since then, local HU and HSU [Humanistische Studentenunion] groups have privately shown the movie, afterwards conducting open discussions on the issues it raises, especially whether any body or organization can properly determine for the whole populace what is "Christian" or "Unchristian." —*Mitteilungen*, 26/1966.

In September 1958, 54% of the [West German] respondents in a nationwide opinion poll believed that the public should be forbidden to read books or view films authorized censors find "improper."

A comparative international study revealed Germany in eighth place among populations favoring censorship (behind Venezuela, Belgium, Brazil, Columbia, Austria, Japan, and Mexico), while Australia (48% for, 48% against), Norway (45% to 40%), Argentina (45% to 52%), and England (41% to 56%) followed. However, the Federal Republic (41%) leads all other countries in the conviction that "the government" should be responsible for censorship, preceding Austria and Brazil (each 39%), Australia and Norway (both 14%), as well as England (11%).—Heinz E. Wolf, "Vorurteile und Toleranz in Der Bundes Republik" ["Prejudice and Tolerance in the Federal Republic"] *Vorgänge*, Mai 1967.

The HU has undertaken legal action against the Federal Film Import Board, which recently prohibited a Munich organization, the "Filmforum Jugend-filmwerk," from releasing an East German-produced documentary on the notorious mercenary-major, "Kongo-Muller" (A former *Wehrmacht* officer hired by Joseph Mobutu to crush Congolese "rebels"). In its brief, the HU sharply criticized the Board's practice of pre-censorship and further noted that although the governing statute provided for supervision [Überwachung] of all foreign films, some 140 countries have since been exempted, leaving only movies from East-Bloc lands still subject to control. "If the object," concluded the HU, "is really to safeguard democracy and promote mutual understanding among peoples . . . then motion pictures imported from these other 140 states must also be placed under Federal scrutiny. At present, for example, "Kongo-Muller," a DDR-production, may be proscribed, but a blatantly racist film from Italy ["Africa Addio"] undergoes no review whatever . . . summarized from *Mitteilungen* 30, Feb.-Mar.-Apr. 1967.

I might add that just a week ago I saw "Kongo-

Muller" myself, at a special showing in Stuttgart's TH (Technical University). The local SDS (German Socialist Student Organization) had somehow secured a non-commercial copy. It was most instructive. And highly worthwhile.

Yours,
Sanford Berman

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