



newsletter

ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

PUBLISHED BY THE INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, EDWIN CASTAGNA, DIRECTOR, ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY, CHAIRMAN, EDITED BY LEROY CHARLES MERRITT, DEAN, UNIVERSITY OF OREGON SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP.

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Richmond vs. "The Barb"

(The following two undated documents were received on 16 September from a correspondent who prefers to remain anonymous. The second document is apparently the "leaflet" mentioned in the 12 September news story.)

Dear Librarian:

Enclosed is a flyer being distributed by the Freedom to Read Committee of Richmond. This committee is a small, loosely organized group of East Bay librarians who met a few days ago and decided that it was necessary to alert the community and to begin attacking the attackers.

The persons attacking the Richmond Public Library have publicly identified themselves as supporters, if not members of the John Birch Society. Attacks have also been made on the El Cerrito library and the Mt. Diablo School District appears to be next on their list. Most recently the West Contra Costa Board of Realtors have joined the censors by requesting that the County Supervisors provide them with the names of the librarians on the county library's book selection committee who approved of the *Berkeley Barb*.

While the issue is presently centering around the *Barb*, the censors have also publicly mentioned the Los Angeles Free Press, Ramparts, I. F. Stone's Weekly and others as publications which ought not be in libraries.

The Freedom to Read Committee must broaden its base of membership and finances. We would like to be able to respond to censorship wherever it occurs in the Bay Area and perhaps the whole state. We need your support.

If you can send a dollar or two it would help greatly. Money is needed for paper, postage and mimeographing. We are already in debt.

Attend the meeting of the Richmond Library Commission on Monday, September 16, 7:30 p.m., at the Library. The censors will be there in force. Your presence is needed.

If you wish to be a member of the committee or help in some other way, please let us know. If you know of others who would be interested, please pass the word—membership is not limited to librarians.

II

Richmond Library Under Attack!

In the past few weeks supporters of the John Birch Society have mounted a massive attack on the Richmond City Library, the city librarian and the Richmond Library Commission.

They are attempting to remove materials from the library which were selected and approved by the Library Commission and the professional librarians. Through pressure on the City Council they are undermining the legitimate authority of the Commission and the librarians.

A handful of self-appointed censors are dictating to the rest of us what we can read.

FIGHT CENSORSHIP!

PROTECT YOUR FREEDOM TO READ!

Tell your city councilmen that you support the library commission. Write them at the City Hall, Civic Center, Richmond, California.

Freedom to Read Committee
P.O. Box 222, Point Station
Richmond, Calif. 94807

III

Freedom Scores Win

Freedom of Expression scored a quick and surprising upset victory Monday night when the Richmond City Council refused to interfere with the Richmond Library and its selection of books.

The action came after Mrs. L. Klock, on behalf of a newly formed group of "concerned Richmond citizens," requested the council to remove the *Berkeley Barb* from the city Library.

In less than a minute, the council refused to consider the request, and adjourned the meeting amidst the cheering of more than 300 supporters of the Richmond Library.

Councilman A. E. Silva suggested that the matter be referred to the Library Commission.

"The Commission has already recommended that the *Barb* be kept in the library and has reaffirmed our book selection policy," Mr. Forsman told the council.

"We should allow our Library Commission to continue selection of books," Councilman Walter Weyman proffered.

There was no dissent on the council and the meeting was quickly adjourned, before anyone from the opposition had a chance to reach the microphone for a rebuttal.

"It was a victory for all libraries," Mr. Forsman stated afterward. "Book selection was being used for a political purpose to the detriment of the library."—*Berkeley Barb*, 16 August.

IV

'Barb' Protest Pamphlets Removed From City Library

A leaflet that described a woman's group opposed to the *Berkeley Barb* as "supporters of the John Birch Society" was removed from Richmond library counters yesterday by direct order of City Manager Kenneth H. Smith.

A five-member woman's committee, led by Mrs. Dorothy Strindberg, 5020 Clinton Ave., stormed into Smith's office with a demand that the mimeographed sheets be taken out.

Mrs. Strindberg vehemently denied that she or other members of the group protesting asserted pornography were supporters of the Birch Society.

After the meeting, Smith telephoned Librarian John Forsman and instructed him to remove all copies of the unauthorized leaflet.

The printed sheet bore the name "Freedom to Read Committee, P.O. Box—, Richmond, California 94801." It did not carry a box number.—*Richmond Independent*, 12 September.

V

Censorship Issue Discussion Slated

The issue of censorship will be open to full discussion by the Library Commission at 7:30 p.m. Monday, City Librarian John Forsman announced today.

The commission's regular meeting will be held in the library auditorium on the subject of a "censorship attack on the Richmond Public Library," according to the agenda.

Availability of the *Berkeley Barb* and a magazine, *Avant Garde*, to young patrons of the library has been publicly denounced by a woman's group led by Mrs. Dorothy Strindberg, 5020 Clinton Ave. The women also are circulating petitions demanding that the publications, which they claim are pornographic, be removed from the library.

Forsman added a post script to the commission agenda reading:

"As reported to the commission at the regular meeting of May 12 the censorship attack by county residents on the El Cerrito branch of the county library would be extended by them to include the Richmond Public Library."

Richmond residents are invited to attend the commission meeting and express their views on censorship, according to Forsman.—*Richmond Independent*, 13 September.

VI

Birch-Ploy Baffles Barb-ers

The meeting of the Richmond Library Commission last Monday to determine whether the *Barb* should be yanked from the shelves to please the local Birchers and book-burners turned into a testimonial meeting for the library and for the *Barb*.

Then, because of a sly Birch-plot it became a comic two-way race between the packed library auditorium

where the commission was meeting and the simultaneous city council meeting two blocks away.

The issue of free speech and press brought out so many good guys that at first the evening threatened to be dull.

"*Barb* stands for Liberty and Individual Enterprise."

"*Barb* is sometimes the only source of information on minority members of the community."

"The Richmond Library under John Forsman is the finest library I have ever had the privilege of using."

"When I worked in the library, more prurient interest was stimulated by anatomy and physiology books than was ever stimulated by the *Barb*. I never noticed any traffic jam in front of the newspaper rack where *Barb* was kept."

"If I were to call for the censorship of the *Barb* it would be on the ground that the artwork isn't very good, not that it's prurient."

People stared around the room, looking for dissenters. There were a few gray heads with pursed lips in the room, but they weren't saying anything. Even Mrs. Klock and Mrs. Strindberg, the mothers who started the whole hot Burn-the-*Barb* issue, weren't there.

Commission Chairman Mrs. Marion Gant noticed this. "Why aren't people here who brought this up?" she asked the audience.

No one answered.

If no one was going to take the con side, "I can see no reason for the meeting," Mrs. Gant said.

A sweet-looking gray-haired LOL stood up abruptly. "They're at the city council tonight with 2,500 names against the *Barb*," she birched sourly and sat down again.

A murmur ran through the audience.

The chairman, visibly irritated, asked the LOL to come forward and explain.

She was Mrs. Gordon, and her message was that "if this community wants a conservative library . . . then they should have it."

"I don't think we're getting the respect we're due . . . if you have to bypass us to go to the city council," Mrs. Gant told her.

By now people were leaving the auditorium rapidly to catch the action in the council chambers. *Barb* went along.

Nothing. The council had already referred the matter back to the commission.

We all raced back to the commission meeting. It was over.—*Berkeley Barb*, 20 September.

VII

Richmond Book Fight Escalates

The California Library Association has set up a special Eastbay sub-committee on intellectual freedom to fight efforts to have certain reading material removed from the Richmond Public Library.

Mrs. Marjorie Blodgett, of Auburn, head of the Association's intellectual freedom committee, appointed Miss Laurel Burley, a librarian at the University of California at Berkeley, to head the special sub-committee.

Mrs. Blodgett said the sub-committee will work to insure "the right of every individual to choose his own reading material."

The Richmond Library has been under attack by a group of parents headed by Mrs. Dorothy Strindberg, 5020 Clinton Ave., to remove a newspaper, the *Berkeley Barb*, and a magazine, *Avant Garde*.

They allege that both publications are obscene and a danger to children.

Yesterday both sides had tables in front of the library soliciting signatures in support of their cause.—*Oakland Tribune*, 19 September.

VIII

Furor on Material in Library

A closed-door session of the City Council called to discuss unidentified "personnel" in the library ended last night with a demand that City Manager Kenneth H. Smith make a full investigation and report back Oct. 21.

Although the name of Librarian John Forsman was not mentioned Councilman Gay Vargas made it clear, after the executive session ended, that he was challenging Forsman's decision to have the *Berkeley Barb* available on library shelves.

"There's no guts on the council," Vargas heatedly exclaimed as the council reconvened at the end of its 20-minute closed-door meeting.

He demanded that City Manager Kenneth H. Smith submit a full report on the *Barb*. Vargas drew applause from a segment of the council audience when he said:

"I don't believe in this four-letter word in there and it's degrading to our library."

Vargas said that he wanted the city manager to investigate not only the library's stocking of the controversial weekly newspaper but also on other "problems." He said:

"There are ladies in the audience who have written letters and heard things and we want the city manager to make a full investigation and then make a decision."

One woman in the audience shouted, "Let's get a new librarian!"

Acting Mayor George Livingston admitted that the topic had been discussed. The council, however, would study the city manager's report before coming to any decision, he said.

"I think that's fair," agreed Mrs. Dorothy Strindberg, spokesman for a group of mothers leading the fight against the *Barb* and the magazine *Avant Garde*.

Earlier in the meeting Mrs. Strindberg's group submitted 1,002 more signatures on petitions protesting the two publications. The previous week they had turned in 2,081 names.

Vargas explained why he did not favor a joint meeting between the council and Library Commission to probe the controversy. Such a meeting, he said, would be open to the public under the state's Brown Act and "we would have the same arguments and everything else."—*Richmond Independent*, 24 September.

"Evergreen Rev." in Philly

A motion asking the Philadelphia district attorney to determine if the magazine *Evergreen Review* could be called pornographic was passed Monday evening by members of the East Torresdale Civic Association.

The motion was made as part of a drive against the presence of the magazine on the shelves of the Free Library of Philadelphia. The magazine has been the subject of considerable controversy for a few months.

In addition, the motion included approval of a letter in which the magazine was condemned as containing "a tremendous amount of pure filth." The letter, sent to Mayor James H. J. Tate, was written by the association's president, John McNichol.

"Strewn throughout articles with an 'anti-government' theme," said McNichol in the letter, "is phraseology that should be relegated to back alleys." "One finds repulsive, 'anti-religious' cartoons devoted to sex and sadism," he continued. "Nowhere in this publication does one find intelligent literature. The best that can be said is that it is the written word overshadowed by sludge."

"Censorship," said McNichol, "has become an ugly word commonly used as a scare tactic by purveyors of filth, in order to give them free reign to peddle their wares." We are not requesting that this "rag" be burned, he said, but we are demanding that this magazine and all past issues be removed from our libraries. "We also demand that taxpayers' funds not be used now and in the future for trash of this kind," he said.

Calling the statement issued by Emerson Greenaway, director of the library, in defense of the magazine, "inane," McNichol said that "The 'person or persons responsible for the presence of the magazine in the library' should definitely be reprimanded." Why is their judgment superior to ours? he asked.

In concluding his letter to the Mayor, McNichol said, "We expect our elected officials to take a positive stand in their attitude toward the expenditure of public funds for this publication."

The motion passed by the civic association was made at the regular monthly meeting of the group, conducted at the Liddonfield Community Building, 8800 Jackson Drive. The motion demands cancellation of the library's subscription to the magazine and removal of all issues of the publication from the shelves of the library.—*Philadelphia Mayfair Times*, 14 August.

New Obs. Laws

The Supreme Court's variable obscenity decision of 25 April, (Cf. NOIF, July, 1968, p. 41) upholding a New York State law designed to prevent distribution of allegedly obscene printed material and motion pictures to children under seventeen, is having its predicted effect of new state and local obscenity legislation patterned on the New York law. We will have neither space nor patience to report each of these in full, but here is the summer box score:

27 June, 1968, Arizona.

22 July, 1968, Mississippi.

Nonreader Redles Advises Library What to Buy

By Michael von Moschzisker

Let's look into dirty magazines.

Albert H. Redles did. He's chairman of a committee set up by the Northeast Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce to watch over the public safety. He takes the job seriously too; so seriously that he hit the roof when he learned that a magazine called the *Evergreen Review* was available in the Northeast Regional Library.

It's "offensive," Redles wrote Library Director Emerson Greenaway. "This is an appeal to the leaders of the library to withdraw this very controversial magazine."

There was talk of a citizens' mass meeting to demand removal of the magazine too, and for a time it seemed there might be a real confrontation between library officials and those for whom Redles spoke.

But Greenaway had an out, of sorts. Because issues of *Evergreen* had been stolen from the library and mutilated, he decided all copies of the magazine should be moved to closed shelves, available to adults who might ask to see them, but to no one else.

Reflecting upon this victory of censorship, and being curious about the makeup of a private citizen who would tell public libraries what they may or may not have on their shelves, I called on Al Redles for a long chat this week.

He's a sincere man. That sticks out all over him. His hobby is fire-fighting.

But Al Redles, who would govern the reading habits of everyone who uses the Free Library, isn't much of a reader himself.

Indeed, when I inquired how many books Redles read last year, he asked me to turn off a tape recorder with which I was taking down our conversation. Then Redles said that he hadn't read a book in the last 12 months. As a matter of fact, he couldn't recall when he last read one.

Magazines? That's a different story. Redles "skips through" the *Saturday Evening Post*—enjoying the pictures mostly—glances at *Look*, reads a monthly called *Fire Engineering* and another, entitled *Hobby*, which happens to be related to his business (plastic toys).

Redles showed me a few articles in *Evergreen Magazine*. They are offensive, disgusting, and revolting by the only workable test I know of, i.e., they offended, disgusted, and revolted me. Other articles and stories in *Evergreen* looked rather good, but it's not a publication I would want my children to spend their allowances on.

Redles cares about children too. It's his view that it would be all right to have *Evergreen* in the Free Libraries if copies could be obtained without wasting the taxpayers' money. But he says that even then the library should keep the magazine out of the hands of children.

As for his own children—now grown—Redles can't recall what sort of books they were allowed to read when they were young. He just left it to the teachers at school.

"What harm would *Evergreen* do to children?" I asked him.

"It might put ideas in their minds. One thing can lead to another . . ."

"Ideas of what?"

"Sex play, fornication . . ."

"But don't children get ideas about that anyway?"

"Yes, but this might make them try something."

I congratulated him on his victory in having *Evergreen* moved to closed shelves.

But Redles didn't seem very moved by his achievement. Not good enough, he indicated; his committee has asked that he write Greenaway again, saying *Evergreen Magazine* must go.

Just keeping it away from children isn't enough. Even serious adults must be turned away, if they wish to read one of the articles or stories. Nothing less will satisfy the Committee on Public Safety of the Northeast Chamber of Commerce.

The risk that some adults might be given ideas is one they're not prepared to run.—Philadelphia *Bulletin*, 1 August.

The New Westminster Censors . . .

It is difficult to find queerer ground on which to defend press freedom than the strange publication *Georgia Straight*. Many who find it disgusting would like nothing better than to see it banned.

Nevertheless the New Westminster City Council sounded like a Latin American dictator when it ruled against sales of the newspaper on the streets of that city. It sounded even more so when the council's finance committee refused to allow the paper's representatives to present their case.

In its rejection the finance committee said, in part: "Until the Georgia Straight Publishing Co. provides a paper worthy of being distributed on public streets to citizens of all ages, it is useless to make any recommendation to council."

This is the rationalization of all who apply censorship. Before a newspaper, a book, a movie can be sanctioned it must be "worthy." How worthy? What are the standards of worthiness? Who is supposed to set them and apply them? New Westminster's present council or the council that will be elected for next year, or the year after?

If New Westminster's council is consistent it will set about banning some slick and successful magazines being sold to Royal City people "of all ages." These, too, are considered disgusting by some people. But the council doesn't prohibit their distribution.

Russian intellectuals, writers and poets have been persecuted because their output has not been considered "worthy" in the Soviet society. The next generation of Russians may applaud the same ideas.

We commend to the New Westminster Council the words of Milton's *Areopagitica*: "And although all the winds of doctrine were let loose to play upon the earth, so Truth be in the field, we do injuriously by licensing and prohibiting to misdoubt her strength."

The people of New Westminster are able to make their assessments of the *Georgia Straight* without official assistance.—Vancouver *Province*, 15 August.

Vallejo (Calif.) Mayor Attacks Library

Mayor Florence E. Douglas has called a meeting of the Mayor's Committee for Decency in Vallejo to protest the "expenditure of taxpayers' money for filthy books" by the Vallejo Library Board.

The session will be held at 4 p.m., Friday in the City Council chambers in City Hall. The mayor said she also has sent a letter to Mrs. Herbert Joseph, chairman of the Library Board, inviting her and board members to the meeting.

According to Mayor Douglas, the Springtowne and South Vallejo branch libraries are circulating a paperback book containing offensive language. She said the book was brought to her attention by the parent of a local teenager who had drawn the volume from the library.

Mayor Douglas said the book, which features a photograph of a nude woman on the front and back covers, makes liberal use of a four-letter Anglo-Saxon word, particularly in describing a psychedelic sexual orgy.

The mayor said she will request the Library Board to make a survey to determine whether more books of this type are available at the library and asserted she believes the Vallejo library should not purchase or distribute paperback books.

"The library should be a cultural and educational institution," Mayor Douglas declared. "Books of this type hardly maintain this concept."—*Vallejo Times-Herald*, 25 September.

II

The Vallejo Board voted unanimously Thursday night to support Head Librarian Homer Fletcher and his staff to the hilt in a controversy raised this week by Mayor Florence E. Douglas regarding the selection of certain so-called "objectional" books for the library. The library board also agreed it would not be represented at today's meeting at 4 p.m., in City Hall of the Mayor's Committee on Decency.

Mayor Douglas had invited the board to attend the committee session being held, she said, "concerning a filthy book being circulated by the library."

Title of the book in question was not disclosed by the mayor, but Librarian Homer L. Fletcher said he surmised it was a paperback, *Hippies on Parade*.

Mrs. Douglas' invitation drew a reply from Mrs. Herbert Joseph, library board president, that the matter would be discussed at the board's regular monthly meeting (held Thursday night), and that because of expected public interest in the topic, the meeting would be held in the City Council chambers.

The mayor said she could not attend because of her previous commitment to attend the United Crusade's annual kick-off dinner.

About 20 spectators attended the board meeting, and most appeared to favor the library stand—that it would continue to circulate the book.—*Vallejo Times-Herald*, 27 September.

III

The Mayor's Committee of Decency in Vallejo took the initial step here Friday in what is believed to be the first attempt in modern times to impose censorship on the board of trustees of the Vallejo Public Library. The group, hand-picked by Mayor Florence E. Douglas in February, 1967, in an attempt to ban topless shows in Vallejo, leveled its indignation at a meeting in City Hall at the library board concerning a paperback book, *The Hippie Papers*, which they branded as "filthy, pornographic literature."

By a unanimous vote, the committee adopted a resolution expressing its disapproval of the expenditure of tax money for the purchase of literature as exemplified by *The Hippie Papers* for distribution by the Vallejo Public Library.—*Vallejo Times-Herald*, 28 September.

First Case

In the first court case in the country under the Postal Act of 1967, enacted to protect the public from repeated unsolicited mailings of "pandering advertisements," the Government filed suit yesterday in Federal Court here to enjoin an alleged distributor.

Under the act, the addressee alone decides whether he believes the material is "erotically arousing" or "sexually provocative."

In a court case, the Government is seeking to enjoin the distributor from continuing to mail to a Nassau County woman circulars she considers to be "erotic." If the injunction is obtained and the distributor violates the court order, he may be held in contempt of court.

United States Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau said the suit was asking an injunction against Cyber-type Corporation, of 441 Lafayette Street, which he described as the distributor. The complainant was identified only as Eileen Chadwick, of Plainview, L.I.—*New York Times*, 17 September.

Censorship Exercise Makes Editors Quiver

POTTSTOWN, Pa.—*Pottstown Mercury* subscribers had a sample of what people in Czechoslovakia have experienced in censored newspapers.

The Thursday (September 5) edition of the *Mercury* was full of holes—chunks of white space in stories throughout the paper, where editors had stricken all negative news and comments concerning the Johnson Administration, local and township governments.

"We approached the censorship as sincerely as possible," said Robert J. Boyle, *Mercury* editor. "The edition took only one day of planning. The primary purpose was to relate the conditions in Czechoslovakia to the reading public but as the work progressed throughout the night the frightening reality of what censorship would be like hit the editors."—*Editor and Publisher*, 14 September.

Missing Commission:

The Federal government, strange as it may seem, has an agency that is hard to find. Not long ago, an enterprising reporter in Washington ran across mention of the U.S. Commission on Obscenity and Pornography. The commission has been in existence for more than a year, but Congress gave it operating funds only last month.

The reporter set to work tracking down the commission. The telephone company had no record of a telephone number for it; neither did the Executive Office Building switchboard, nor the White House switchboard. The reporter then tried the White House records office; he was told by an employee there, "We've been checking for the past two weeks attempting to find out where they are—or if they are. . . ." A presidential assistant's secretary finally provided a telephone number for the commission, but when the reporter dialed the number, he was told that it was for the Committee on Urban Housing.

The presidential assistant's secretary, when called again, said that the number was correct, and that Mrs. Bannister at that number would be able to provide more information. The reporter learned from Mrs. Bannister that so far she is the sole employe of the commission; its first director, Dr. Coty Wilson, of the University of Texas, wouldn't be in Washington until after Labor Day.—*Richmond News-Leader*, 31 August.

Court Scraps Censorship Board

OLYMPIA (AP)—Two Seattle ordinances setting up a movie censorship board to rule on the content of films were declared unconstitutional Thursday by the Washington Supreme Court.

In a 7-1 decision, the court upheld a King County Superior Court ruling by Judge James W. Miffin, which threw out the two ordinances.

The suit was brought by Seattle area movie distributors and exhibitors.

One of the laws made it illegal to show obscene films and set up a "Board of Theatre Supervisors" to preview all films. The other authorized censors to classify movies as suitable for adults or those under 21 and set criminal penalties or loss of theater license for failure to offer for previewing.

The majority, in an opinion written by Judge Orris L. Hamilton, said the Seattle ordinances eliminate "the safeguards of the criminal process." The laws, the court said, are contrary to U.S. Supreme Court rulings that prohibit prior censorship without judicial supervision.

The court also said "there are presently sufficient guidelines in the extant decisions of the United States Supreme Court to permit the drafting of appropriate future legislation within the confines of the pertinent boundaries imposed by that court."—*Portland Oregonian*, 27 September.

Library Reinforces Purchase Policy

In a full-dress statement of policy, trustees of the 200,000-volume Binghamton Public Library today said they would challenge any attempt at censorship of its book selection, whether the complaints are based on sexual, social or political bias.

It is the first time in the library's 64-year history that the board of trustees has laid out its aims and its rules for selecting and buying books.

"We get complaints frequently," board president James B. Gitlitz said. "Somebody even complained because we had a lobby display in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King."

"The only statement of book selection policy was a short, one-page general definition," library director M. Charles Miller said. "We wanted something in detail. Times have changed."

Among other things the policy expression says:

"As far as practical, all points of view concerning the problems of our times should be represented.

"Many books are controversial and any given item may offend some patrons.

"Selections will not be made on the basis of any anticipated approval or disapproval, but to build the collection and to serve the needs and interests of the readers."

It also says, "Selection will not be controlled by the fear that books will come into the possession of children. Responsibility for the reading of children rests with the parent or legal guardian."

The board of trustees included as part of its policy statement the American Library Association Bill of Rights, which says, "Censorship should be challenged by libraries in the maintenance of their responsibility to provide public information and enlightenment.

A forerunner of the new policy was the action of Mr. Miller last fall in opening to the public the so-called "Closed Stack," which kept certain books, mostly of a clinical sexual nature or novels that dealt frankly with sex, under lock and key.

At that time, Mr. Miller said anyone 18 or older could visit the area and borrow books that are on loan.

If younger children were to visit the former "Closed Stack," they need parental approval, he said.

The statement of policy said the objectives of the library are to "collect materials of contemporary significance and permanent value, to provide representation of experimental writing of interest and value, and to provide materials for enlightenment and recreation, though these may be ephemeral and not of lasting value."

In the area of discretion where sex material is concerned, the statement said.

"However, the book committee, if the material obviously is too frankly sexual for children, whether it be fiction, sociology or medicine, may indicate that the material should be sequestered (put to one side) for use only by adults or children with parental permission."

Responsibility of book selection lies with the library director and a committee of assistants on his staff.—*Binghamton, N.Y. Press*, 17 June.

What to do Before the Censor Comes—and After

How Libraries and Schools Can Resist Censorship

(Adopted 1 February, 1962 by the ALA Council)

Libraries of all sizes and types have been under increasing pressures from persons who wish to use the library as an instrument of their own tastes and views. Such individuals and groups are demanding the exclusion or removal of books to which they object or the inclusion of a higher proportion of books that support their views. Similar attacks have been made on schools in connection with books used in their programs. In view of this fact, it seems desirable to set forth a few basic principles that may help librarians, trustees, and school administrators in preserving the freedom and professional integrity of their institutions.

The problem differs somewhat between the public library, with a responsibility to the public to present as wide a spectrum of significant reading matter as its budget can afford, and the school library, whose collections are designed to support the educational objectives of the school. In both, however, there is involved the freedom of the school or the library to meet its professional responsibilities to the whole community.

Every library or school should take certain measures to clarify its policies and establish its community relations. These steps should be taken without regard to any attack or prospect of attack. They will put the institution in a firm and clearly defined position if its book policies are ever called into question.

As a normal operating procedure, every library, and the administration responsible for it, should establish certain principles.

1. There should be a definite book selection policy. This should be in written form and approved by the board of trustees, the school board, or other administrative authority. It should be stated clearly and should be understood by members of the staff. This policy should apply to other materials equally, *i.e.*, films, records, magazines, and pamphlets.

2. A file recording the basis for decision should be kept for titles likely to be questioned or apt to be considered controversial.

3. There should be a clearly defined method for handling complaints. Any complaint should be required to be in writing, and the complainant should be identified properly before the complaint is considered. Action should be deferred until full consideration by appropriate administrative authority.

4. There should be continuing efforts to establish lines of communication to assure mutual understanding with civic, religious, educational, and political bodies.

5. Newspapers of the community should be informed of policies governing book selection and use. Purposes and services of the library should be interpreted through a continuing public relations program, as should the use of books in the school.

6. Participation in local civic organizations and in community affairs is desirable. The library and the

school are key centers of the community; the librarian and school administrator should be known publicly as community leaders.

If an attack does come, remember the following:

1. Remain calm. Don't confuse noise with substance. Most attacks come from small groups of people who have little community backing. Time after time the American people have shown that, given the facts, they will back solidly the responsible exercise of professional freedom by teachers and librarians and that they will insist on protecting their own freedom to read. Insist on the deliberate handling of the complaint under previously established rules. Treat complainants with dignity, courtesy, and good humor.

2. Take immediate steps to assure that the full facts surrounding a complaint are known to the administration. The school librarian should go through the principal to the superintendent and the school board; the public librarian, to the board of trustees or to the appropriate community administration official; the college or university librarian, to the president and through him to the board of trustees. Full, written information should be presented, giving the nature of the problem or complaint and identifying the source.

3. Seek the support of the local press immediately. The freedom to read and the freedom of the press go hand in hand.

4. Inform local civic organizations of the facts and enlist their support where possible.

5. Defend the principles of the freedom to read and the professional responsibility of teachers and librarians rather than the individual book. The laws governing obscenity, subversive material, and other questionable matter are subject to interpretation by the courts. The responsibility for removal of any book from public access should rest with this established process. The responsibility for the use of books in the schools must rest with those responsible for the educational objectives being served.

6. The ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee and other appropriate national and state committees concerned with intellectual freedom should be informed of the nature of the problem. Even though each effort at censorship must be met at the local level, there is often value in the support and assistance of agencies outside the area which have no personal involvement. They often can cite parallel cases and suggest methods of meeting an attack. Similar aid in cases affecting the use of books in the schools can be obtained from the Commission on Professional Rights and Responsibilities of the National Education Association.

Reprints Available

This special supplement is available as a separate in quantity at \$5.00 per hundred. Single copies ten cents. Please send cash with order to the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago 60611.

Library Bill of Rights

The Council of the American Library Association reaffirms its belief in the following basic policies which should govern the services of all libraries.

1. As a responsibility of library service, books and other library materials selected should be chosen for values of interest, information and enlightenment of all the people of the community. In no case should library materials be excluded because of the race or nationality or the social, political, or religious views of the authors.

2. Libraries should provide books and other materials presenting all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times; no library materials should be proscribed or removed from libraries because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

3. Censorship should be challenged by libraries in the maintenance of their responsibility to provide public information and enlightenment.

4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

5. The rights of an individual to the use of a library should not be denied or abridged because of age, race, religion, national origins or social or political views.

6. As an institution of education for democratic living, the library should welcome the use of its meeting rooms for socially useful and cultural activities and discussion of current public questions. Such meeting places should be available equally to all groups in the community regardless of the beliefs and affiliations of their members, provided that the meetings be open to the public.

Adopted June 18, 1948.

Amended February 2, 1961, and June 27, 1967, by the ALA Council.

Intellectual Freedom in Libraries

A Statement of Policy Adopted by California Library Association and School Library Association of California (now California Association of School Librarians.)

A. Preamble

The following statement of policy was developed by the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the California Library Association and the Book Selection Policies Committee of the School Library Association of California. These professional associations are directly concerned with the freedom of all members of a democratic society to read what they will in the course of making the social, educational, and political judgments on which that society is based. Without such freedom the very fabric of democracy is in danger. There is evidence that books and libraries are the chief bastion against the pressures toward conformity which are in large part already overwhelming the motion picture, radio and television, and the press. Only in libraries can the interested student easily find record of the past, and only in libraries can the interested citizen hope to find all the relevant facts concerning current controversial issues. It is appropriate that librarians should deem their freedom, and that of their libraries, of the utmost importance to the continued existence of democracy.

B. Authority

Through their respective Boards of Directors the

Associations have empowered the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the California Library Association (Resolution passed at meeting held at Long Beach, on 28 October 1958) and the Book Selection Policies Committee of the School Library Association of California (Resolution passed at meeting held at Riverside, on 7 November 1958) to act in their behalf in all four areas of concern described below. These areas of concern constitute continuing responsibilities of the two Committees, acting separately or together, until this Statement of Policy is amended or revoked.

C. Areas of Concern

1. The Associations are concerned with watching for proposed legislation at the state, local, and school district level which might place library collections in jeopardy, or which might restrict, prejudice, or otherwise interfere with the selection, acquisition, or other professional activities of librarians.

The Committees are instructed to write letters to and talk with legislators and administrators to present the Associations' point of view, and to appear before legislative and administrative committees in the interest of preserving freedom of the press and the right to read.

2. The Associations are also concerned with legislation at the state, local, and school district level which tends to strengthen the position of libraries and other media of communication as instruments of knowledge and culture in a free society.

The Committees are instructed to watch for legislation in the general field of the communication of knowledge and ideas which the Associations might desirably support as being beneficial to the whole concept embodied in the phrase "Freedom to Read." The Committees are instructed to inform the Association memberships of such pending legislation, to present their recommendations, and to tender the Associations' support to such legislation.

3. The Associations are concerned with proposed or actual restrictions imposed by individuals, voluntary committees, or administrative authority on library materials or on the selection judgments, order procedures, or administrative practices of librarians.

The Committees are instructed, at will or on request of either party to a controversy, to (a) determine the facts; (b) develop a statement of the Associations' position in relation to this statement of policy; (c) present the Associations' position to all interested parties, including the press, when, in the Committees' judgment, this seems wise or necessary.

4. The Associations believe that every library, in order to strengthen its own selection process, and to provide an objective basis for the evaluation of that process, should develop an official statement of policy for the selection of library materials.

The Committees are instructed to collect existing selection policies from all types of libraries, to promote their development and official adoption by libraries not yet having them, and to develop sample prototypes of selection policies for the guidance of librarians writing such policies.

November, 1958

School Library Bill of Rights

Approved by the American Association of School Librarians.

Endorsed by the Council of the American Library Association, July, 1955.

School libraries are concerned with generating understanding of American freedoms and with the preservation of these freedoms through the development of informed and responsible citizens. To this end the American Association of School Librarians reaffirms the *Library Bill of Rights* of the American Library Association and asserts that the responsibility of the school library is:

To provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the pupils served.

To provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards.

To provide a background of information which will enable pupils to make intelligent judgments in their daily life.

To provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop under guidance the practice of critical reading and thinking.

To provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage.

To place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials of the highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the users of the library.

Enoch Pratt Free Library

(*Controversial Books—Procedure*)

1. If book is brought to attention of staff member in branch or at Central by reader in person, staff member tries to handle complaint. (Points of approach are suggested at end.) If he is not successful he passes person on to agency head. As has always been the custom, the agency head or person in charge will try to satisfy reader's complaint.

If reader insists on speaking to "someone in authority" ask him to fill out Form 17 or 17A. Filled in form should be routed to appropriate Coordinator (in case of adult books, Assistant Coordinator, BSR) who will take action (after consulting with Department Head or Chairman, Assistant Director and/or Director if necessary). If reader still desires to take his complaint to the Director or Assistant Director, he may do so. If possible the Director or Assistant Director should be notified that a complaint may be received.

2. If letter of complaint is received by Director or Assistant Director, it will be routed to appropriate Coordinator for action.

In case of adult books, letter will be sent to Assistant Coordinator, BSR. Book Selection Room will gather materials concerning book, and in consultation with

Department Head will draft a courteous but firm letter which will be sent out over Director's signature.

If letter of complaint is received by head of agency, he is expected to answer, consulting with Assistant Coordinator if necessary. A carbon of the letter should be sent to BSR for files.

(The contents of letter should include reasons why rejected, statement from Book Selection Policy, or copy of entire Book Selection Policy if necessary, and Form 17 or 17A if appropriate.)

3. If Public Relations is informed by the press that letter will appear in newspaper, they will inform Director or Assistant Director and Assistant Coordinator, Book Selection Room, who will gather material, etc., if action needs to be taken.

4. If telephone complaints cannot be satisfied, it is suggested that reader's name, address, author and title of book, and nature of complaint be written down and sent to appropriate Coordinator for action.

5. If book has never been considered by Library and it is in print, a reasonable effort should be made to get a copy for approval, and it should be put through normal selection routines.

* * *

If an assistant is faced with a complaint and cannot seek his supervisor's aid, the following approaches may be helpful:

(a) *Listen sympathetically* to the reader's statement.

(b) *Avoid ambiguous terms*, especially those which might cause additional confusion to the reader, such as "rejected," rather than, "not bought."

(c) *Don't "over explain"*—explanation of undue length can be as hazardous as not saying enough.

(d) *Limited book budget*—in most cases, this excuse is not applicable to controversial titles, but is rather a general factor in selection of highly specialized materials, which because of their nature would not be suited to the broader needs of Pratt's collection.

(e) *Published reviews* or "*Book Review Digest*" might be consulted when discussing a book's merit. Specialized reviewing media should be consulted for authoritative reviews of books in specialized fields, i.e., *The American Dietetic Association Journal* for reviews of Taller's "Calories Don't Count."

(f) *Pratt's printed "Book Selection Policies"*—this is the most useful and clearly defined source of explanation of the Library's policy in selecting materials. As an official statement endorsed by the Library's Board of Trustees, it is the best source to make available to the reader when questions concerning selection arise. A copy should be available at each agency's public service desk.

Vietnam's Controlled Press

is the title of Freedom of Information Center's *Report* No. 207, dated August, 1967. Available from the Center at Box 858, Columbia, Missouri, 65201. 25 cents.

Statement on Labeling

(Adopted by ALA Council, 13 July, 1951)

In view of our own convictions and those of other practicing librarians whose counsel we sought, the Committee on Intellectual Freedom recommends to the ALA Council the following policy with respect to labeling library materials:

Librarians should not use the technique of labeling as a means of predisposing readers against library materials for the following reasons:

1. Although totalitarian states find it easy and even proper, according to their ethics, to establish criteria for judging publications as "subversive," injustice and ignorance rather than justice and enlightenment results from such practices, and the American Library Association has a responsibility to take a stand against the establishment of such criteria in a democratic state.

2. Libraries do not advocate the idea found in their collections. The presence of a magazine or book in a library does not indicate an endorsement of its contents by the library.

3. No one person should take the responsibility of labeling publications. No sizable group of persons would be likely to agree either on the types of material which should be labeled or the sources of information which should be regarded with suspicion. As a practical consideration, a librarian who labeled a book or magazine pro-communist might be sued for libel.

4. Labeling is an attempt to prejudice the reader, and as such, it is a censor's tool.

5. Labeling violates the spirit of the Library Bill of Rights.

6. Although we are all agreed that communism is a threat to the free world, if materials are labeled to pacify one group, there is no excuse for refusing to label any item in the library's collection. Because communism, fascism, or other authoritarianisms tend to suppress ideas and attempt to coerce individuals to conform to a specific ideology, American librarians must be opposed to such "isms." We are, then, anti-communist, but we are also opposed to any other group which aims at closing any path to knowledge.

Rochester Public Library

The following recommendations for implementing the *Policy on Access to Materials* were approved by the Board of Trustees on 16 April, 1968:

The aim of R.P.L. is to make all of the library's collection easy to find and to use, to avoid reluctance or embarrassment on the public's part in asking for materials, and to serve all of the public efficiently, pleasantly and without discrimination.

For these reasons, most of the library's collection should be on open shelves, arranged in such a manner that there can be a maximum of self-service, and that will best serve the interests of a varied public.

Because of format, space limitations, and other reasons, there are materials that cannot be placed on open shelves in the normal arrangement in all units. Specific recommendations are:

4. *Magazines frequently stolen or mutilated* create a problem for which we can find no practical solution.

4a. Some units feel that there is no alternative but to keep them in a service desk drawer or in a closed area near the desk, and have patrons ask for them. If this is done, there should be *obvious, clearly labeled location guides* for each magazine title, placed where such title would normally be found on open magazine shelves.

4b. Certain magazines (e.g., *Playboy*, *Hot Rod*) are invariably stolen whether on open shelves or kept at a desk. There is a serious question as to whether we are really providing good public service when a unit subscribes to a certain magazine, but is practically never able to provide that magazine for the patron who wishes to use it. Each RPL unit has the option to: (1) put current issues on open shelves where perhaps one or two persons may use it before the issue is stolen; or (2) keep it in a restricted area and hope that perhaps three or four persons may use it before it is stolen; or (3) discontinue the subscription.

4c. Serious consideration should be given to *duplicating* these items on the *open reference shelves* where patrons will have direct access to them and/or also in the *open circulating collection* if the item has validity for home use.

6. Certain *reference books* used frequently by the public (e.g., *Book of Health*, *Masterplots*, *Consumer Annuals*), although they may be frequently mutilated or stolen, should be on open access shelves, so that all library users will know of their availability and can help themselves. They do not necessarily need to be shelved in sequence with the bulk of the reference collection—they may be put on special shelves in sight of the service desk, but should not be in a restricted area.

12. *Sex education and marriage* materials should be placed on open shelves, where patrons may easily find them. Librarians should make a particular effort to make self-service as easy as possible for *any* materials that patrons may be timid or embarrassed about asking for.

13. No materials, either Fiction or Non-Fiction, should be removed from open shelves or kept in a restricted area because of their controversial nature, or because they are more suitable for one age level than another, or because their subject matter, viewpoint or treatment may be distasteful to certain individuals or groups, or because the materials are obviously designed for a specific, limited audience. No librarian or member of the public should be allowed to use his personal prejudices, tastes or moral standards to interfere with free and convenient access to materials.

Experience in the past seems to indicate that keeping materials in locked cases, or in desk drawers where patrons must ask for them specifically, or making patrons sign for use of materials, either for in-library or home use, has had little or no effect on theft, mutilation, or circulation control, and probably has been a serious drawback for many patrons, who either do not know that the materials are available or who hesitate to ask for them.

14. As a partial solution to the problems of theft and mutilation of popular and indispensable materials, it is recommended that, in budget planning, sufficient funds be allocated for purchase of duplicates and replacements.

(The editor regrets the need for abridgement, but is sure Librarian Harold Hacker will be glad to send complete text to any one interested.)

Librarian and Trustee Get Death Threats

Death threats have been received by Orrin Dow, director of the Farmingdale Public Library on Long Island, and by Dr. Albert Meyerstein, a trustee of the library. Both have opposed the pressures of right wing elements in the town, including the Birch Society, which has managed to place one member on the library board; a second seat was won in the last election by a candidate whom they supported. These are Carl Gorton (*LJ*, October 1, 1967, p. 3380-4) and Warren Altman.

Also receiving death threat letters, according to the *Farmingdale Observer*, were Paul Tilford, a former member of the library board; a former school trustee, Bernard Lang; and Hillard Boss, a newspaper columnist. All letters were mimeographed and signed by "Minutemen," the name of a parliamentary organization, whose head is Robert DePugh, presently reported to be a fugitive from justice on gun charges. The letters warned of possible death by knife, poison, or sharpshooter's rifle, of which last it said "even now the cross-hairs are on the back of your neck."

When contacted by *LJ*, Dow said that he had hoped to keep the matter out of the papers, to give the police a chance to work quietly on the case. He admitted that the threats were disturbing, particularly to his wife.

The threats took on a more serious aspect when, in a possibly related incident, a live grenade was found in a car belonging to Nassau County Executive Eugene H. Nickerson. Police were notified of the bomb by an unidentified caller, who called again later to say that a bomb was also placed in the car of library trustee Carl Gorton. No bomb was found in the Bircher's car, and his wife ascribed it to "a bluff by the other side."

Gorton lost a round in another battle on July 17, according to the *Suffolk Sun*, when the State Division for Human Rights ruled that he violated state law in attempting to have the assistant library director, Mrs. Hortensia Stoyan, fired "because she is a Puerto Rican and a Jehovah's Witness" (*LJ*, April 15, p. 1568). Gorton had held that her language background made her unsuitable to conduct a reading program for children, and that her religious affiliation, which forbids saluting of the flag and serving in the armed forces, made her an unsuitable guide for children.

The hearing officers recommended that Gorton be ordered to pay Mrs. Stoyan \$100 in compensatory damages, plus attorneys' fees. Final action on their recommendation awaits a binding order by State Human Rights Commissioner Robert J. Mangum.—*Library Journal*, August.

Vidal Book Out, but "Not Censored"

True, you can't get the book *Myra Breckenridge* by Gore Vidal at the Ottawa Hills branch of the Grand Rapids Library.

Roger Patterson, director of the branch, decided not to order it after reading a review in *Time Magazine* which intimated that Vidal's valid point was submerged by much invalid obscenity.

"I decided that in our area of the city the book just wouldn't go. It would be \$7 sitting on the shelf," Patterson said.

In this case, at least, the decision to spend the book budget money for something else appears to be vindicated, Patterson said.

"I've noticed no great big demand for it," he said.

Patterson said there was little censorship per se in the matter of ordering books.

"I believe a person should be able to read what he wants."

And he conceded that the decision on Vidal's book, which deals, among other things, with a fellow who enjoys dressing as a woman, "may have been a mistake of ours.

"But what we try to do very desperately is to take the money budgeted for books and spend it so that a large number of patrons of our library will have a selection they will enjoy."

Even if the *Myra Breckenridge* decision was a mistake, Patterson said, it probably is too late to rectify it, best-sellers being so perishable.

"I've had second thoughts on books like this," he said, "but I've found it's often ridiculous to order a back number because by the time you get it, something else has replaced it in the public fancy."

Myra is not available at Ottawa Hills, but it is on tap in the rest of the system, Grand Rapids Library Director Donald Kohlstedt reported.

Like other books which the library feels is due for a short term run and a long term neglect, the library rented copies from the American Lending Library at Atlanta, Ga., which provides this service for libraries.

Purchase of books, Kohlstedt said, is limited, as far as human judgment is reliable in such matters, on books "we feel are worthy of a permanent place on our shelves."

Kohlstedt confirmed Patterson's report that the library has no written policy on which books are to be acquired.

"We try to use common sense," he said.—*Grand Rapids Press*, 27 August.

Court Upholds Chicago's Movie Censorship

This city's new motion picture censorship ordinance was declared constitutional by Judge Alexander J. Napoli in U.S. District Court here last week.

The court denied the petition of six major film distributors for declaratory judgment finding the new ordinance unconstitutional.

Earlier this year, Teitel Film Corp. succeeded in having the previous censorship ordinance struck down because of procedural flaws. The city thereupon amended the ordinance, reducing the waiting period in which a censor board denial of a license could be tested in court from the 50 to 57 days under the former ordinance to no more than 12 days under the present one for administrative review and another eight days for judicial determination.—*MP Daily*, 27 August.

Cleaver at Cal

I

Reagan Demands Appointment of Cleaver Be Rescinded by UC

SACRAMENTO—Gov. Reagan demanded Friday that the UC Board of Regents rescind the appointment of Eldridge Cleaver, controversial Black Panther leader, to lecture this fall in an experimental Berkeley course on race relations.

Cleaver, who is minister of information for the Black militants, would be the principal lecturer in the course entitled "The Dehumanization and Regeneration in the American Social Order."

Students could earn up to five units of credit for graduation for enrolling in the course.

Reagan, who said he was "astounded" at the announcement that Cleaver had been chosen to teach on a UC campus, charged that the university administration had ignored "even the minimum standards of academic competence in making the choice."

"The people of this state," he said, "have a right to expect that a great institution of learning—one which they have established and maintained and to which they entrust their children—will exercise great care in the selection of faculty, both in terms of academic preparation and in dedication to the objective and scholarly teaching of truth."—L.A. *Times*, 14 September.

II

State Senate Votes Censure of UC Officials Over Cleaver

SACRAMENTO—The Senate voted 32 to 3 Tuesday to censure UC Berkeley officials for agreeing to allow Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver to lecture this fall in an experimental race relations course.

The censure resolution, proposed by Sen. John G. Schmitz (R-Tustin), now goes to an uncertain fate in the Assembly.

It was first watered down to eliminate a threat of no state support funds for UC Berkeley in fiscal 1969-70 unless Cleaver was fired within two weeks.

Earlier, Gov. Reagan and Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh (D-Inglewood) agreed that the controversial minister of information for the black militant group should not be allowed to lecture the class.—L.A. *Times*, 18 September.

III

Assembly Adds UC Regents to Censure Resolution on Cleaver

SACRAMENTO—A freshman Republican in the Assembly threw his GOP colleagues into irate confusion Thursday by declaring that the UC Board of Regents, which includes Gov. Reagan, should also be censured for the Eldridge Cleaver affair at Berkeley.

Backed by 28 Democrats and three other Republicans, Assemblyman Peter B. Wilson of San Diego quickly won a vote adding the regents to those already named in a censuring resolution.

The resolution, which passed the Senate on a 32-3 vote Wednesday, had been heading for a floor vote in the Assembly when Wilson surprised his colleagues.

Although Democratic Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh, who also is a regent, sought to continue debate on the now amended resolution, GOP Caucus Chairman Don Mulford of Oakland led a majority of Republicans in blocking the move.

"I want to know the governor's position on this," Mulford told newsmen.

The resolution originally censured only University President Charles Hitch, Berkeley Chancellor Roger W. Heyns and the Academic Senate, which is composed of faculty members. L.A. *Times*, 20 September.

IV

One Lecture Only!

Despite vigorous attempts by Gov. Reagan to prevent Eldridge Cleaver from lecturing to a UC Berkeley class, UC regents Friday voted to permit the Black Panther—or any other guest speaker—one appearance a quarter in courses given for credit.

By a 10-8 vote the regents changed a rule which formerly allowed faculty members to invite guest speakers to appear an unlimited number of times.

Cleaver had been scheduled to give 10 lectures to an experimental course in racism at UC Berkeley.

Gov. Reagan, who said he was speaking for the people of California, warned that permitting Cleaver to appear might cause a legislative investigation of the university from "top to bottom."

He said dissatisfaction could lead to increased legislative control of UC.

The new ruling on guest speakers was proposed by UC President Charles J. Hitch and endorsed by the statewide Academic Council.

However, it is thought that many faculty members may be unhappy with the ruling which reduces their autonomy.

The Center for Participant Education, which developed the course involving Cleaver, issued a statement in conjunction with the four faculty members slated to teach the class.

The statement condemned the regents' action, and said it "thoroughly undermines faculty authority to determine the structure and content of the courses."

After approving the new rule, regents voted to censure those members of the Berkeley Academic Senate and Board of Educational Development who were responsible for structuring and approving the course at which Cleaver was to be principal lecturer.—L.A. *Times*, 21 September.

Hartford Public Library Encourages Politicking

The Board of Directors of the Hartford Public Library has announced that it approves of staff members taking part in politics as fully as any other citizen, as long as it's done on their own time, off library property, and not as representatives of the library. Many public institutions forbid active participation in political

campaigns by their staffs, and in some cases it is barred by state law.

The text of the Hartford policy statement follows:

"The Board of Directors believes a staff member of the Hartford Public Library shall be encouraged, while not on duty as an employee of the library, to exercise all the political rights and obligations of a citizen of the city, state, and nation. He may participate in the activities of political campaigns in any way so long as such activities are not practiced on library premises, during working hours, or while representing the library. The staff member shall, however, give unbiased consideration to material being selected for the library collection without reference to personal sympathies toward political candidates, issues, or philosophies."—*LJ*, 1 September.

Dirksen Would Curb Court Jurisdiction over Obscenity

WASHINGTON (AP)—The fight over Abe Fortas' nomination as chief justice took a surprise turn Monday when Sen. Everett M. Dirksen, R-Ill., offered legislation to bar the Supreme Court from overturning obscenity convictions.

Dirksen, the Senate GOP leader, proposed the measure as an amendment to gun-control legislation now before the Senate.

Majority leader Mike Mansfield, D-Mont., immediately endorsed Dirksen's move. Mansfield said that Congress ought to assume the initiative in acting against obscenity rather than blame Fortas or other Supreme Court justices.

One of the complaints against Fortas was that he sided with the majority in 5-4 decisions overturning obscenity convictions.

Dirksen said no one is more concerned than he is over the obscene materials being circulated, but he said "a solution will not be found by opposing the appointment of a chief justice of the Supreme Court."

Dirksen's amendment to legislation to ban interstate mail order sales of rifles and shotguns would strip the

Supreme Court of authority to review jury findings in federal and state obscenity prosecutions.

In federal prosecutions, the amendment provides that no court of the United States or the District of Columbia would have jurisdiction to review or set aside a determination by a jury on whether something is obscene.

Similarly, it provides that no federal court may set aside a determination by a state court that something is obscene.

Dirksen described his amendment as "an attempt to provide some further legislative safeguards insofar as the determination by federal juries and state courts of what is and what is not obscene."

Mansfield said "I do not believe in taking out on one man our feelings against the whole court because that court handed down decisions some of us didn't like."—*Portland Oregonian*, 17 September.

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The Illinois senator withdrew an amendment he introduced two days ago to strip the court of power to overturn jury findings on obscenity. He had forecast its approval "by a whacking vote."

Dirksen said that after conferring with Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, D-Mont., he decided to submit his amendment as separate legislation.—*Portland Oregonian*, 19 September.

Spain Bans Book About Pretender

MADRID, Aug. 16 (UPI)—The Spanish government today banned a book about Don Juan de Borbon, pretender to the Spanish throne.

It was the second time in less than two months that the government has taken action against supporters of the 55-year-old exiled prince. A few days before his saint's day on June 24, the government canceled a series of monarchist banquets that were to have been celebrated in several Spanish cities.

Ministry of Information officials today sequestered copies of the Iber-Amer publication *Don Juan de España*, by Fernando Gonzales Doria, reportedly because of a preface by Luis Maria Anson. Both are monarchists and favor a restoration with Don Juan as king.—*International Herald-Tribune*, 17 August.

the small society

by Brickman



Newspaper Poll Finds Most Readers Want Some Form of Censorship

SEATTLE — Readers of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, in a recently conducted poll, voted overwhelmingly in favor of some form of censorship of motion pictures, television, literature and other visual media to curb objectionable material.

Results of the poll revealed 68 per cent wanted censorship, 64 per cent want a strict ban as well (as opposed to partial controls), while 21 per cent wanted no form of censorship. The newspaper poll was initiated following requests to the Seattle City Council and the Board of King County Commissioners that there be enacted a law similar to one in New York State which provides for the prosecution and punishment of persons for disseminating indecent material to minors. The interest was awakened when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld that New York law last April.

One of the poll questions, asking who should have the responsibility of censorship, showed that 24 per cent thought the decision was up to the individual, 21 per cent felt the Government should handle it, 11 per cent would entrust the job to an academic committee, 10 per cent to a religious committee, and 10 per cent were "not sure."

Some 57 per cent of the readers voted for a classification system with the authority to punish, 17 per cent voted for a classification system with no extra authorities, and 26 per cent wanted no classification.

Asked What Is 'Most Objectionable'

Another question asked what readers found most objectionable in entertainment and literary media. Some 65 per cent voted "all of the above" which consisted of: detailed sex scenes, violence or brutality, illegal or immoral acts and the ridicule of American institutions. A total of 17 per cent of the readership felt nothing should be censored. —*Motion Picture Daily*, 10 July.

Waddya Mean, "Seemed"?

Another controversial subject touched upon by the CLA executive board was intellectual freedom. California's Intellectual Freedom Committee has asked for a fresh study of its role, pointing out a 1958 policy statement which "seemed to give it full authority to act for the Association, without reference back to the governing body."

Many California librarians in recent months have pressed for a more militant and more independent intellectual freedom committee. Homer Fletcher, Vallejo librarian, has been perhaps the most active proponent of this view. Opposing it has been executive director David Brunton, who has argued that tactful political action is preferable to taking highly publicized stands on censorship issues, and that such a course has indeed protected California from censorship legislation for many years, while other states have been afflicted with repressive measures.—*LJ*, 1 September.

Ralph Ginzburg Granted Rehearing

In a significant but surprisingly unheralded move, the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, which sits in Philadelphia, has recently granted a motion by the publisher Ralph Ginzburg, for a hearing on his request for reconsideration of the five-year jail sentence which has been confronting him since June, 1963. Ginzburg, you will recall, was indicted under the Federal obscenity law because he "used the mails" for the delivery of allegedly "non-mailable matter" (i.e., his publications "The Housewife's Handbook on Selective Promiscuity," *Eros*, and *Liaison*). He was subsequently convicted, and in a novel and much criticized opinion handed down in 1966, the United States Supreme Court affirmed that conviction. We say "novel" because for the first time the Court declared that even if publications are not themselves legally "obscene," a conviction for obscenity may nonetheless stand if those publications were "pandered," i.e., promoted with the "leer of the sensualist."

It has repeatedly been urged that this decision upheld Ginzburg's conviction for a crime different from that charged in the indictment, but until now that argument has got nowhere. Now, however, at long last, Ginzburg has been granted the right to a full hearing with respect to his sentence (but not his conviction), and the appellate court made it clear that it does not feel that the five-year sentence was appropriate under the circumstances. Among other things, the court stated: "Ginzburg did not know, nor could he have known, that at the time he published and exploited 'Handbook,' *Eros* and *Liaison*, that the criteria of obscenity included 'pandering,' and methods of promotional exploitation of a publication proscribed by the elaborated obscenity testing formula. Otherwise stated, assuming that Ginzburg personally participated in the condemned activity, he did not know, nor did he have reason to know, that he was violating the obscenity statute." We await with interest, and will promptly report, all further developments.

[*United States v. Ginzburg*, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, No. 16028, July 3, 1968]—Harriet F. Pilpel in *P.W.*, 2 September.

Spain Closes Paper 'Madrid' for Two Months

The Spanish government closed a Madrid newspaper yesterday for two months.

The order closing the afternoon daily *Madrid*, issued after a special cabinet meeting, was the first the government has issued since the civil war, 1936-39.

The action was the most conspicuous example of a stiffening line that the government has adopted toward its critics in recent weeks.

Informed observers believe that actually what set off the action was an editorial printed in *Madrid* Thursday criticizing French President de Gaulle as an old man clinging obstinately to power, and going on to draw parallels with the Franco regime in Spain. —*San Francisco Chronicle*, 1 June.

High Court Kills Part of New York Obscenity Statute

Hot on the heels of its ruling in an entirely different Ginsberg case last April (*PW*, May 27, 1968), in which the United States Supreme Court held constitutional a section of the new New York Obscenity Law insofar as it differentiated between minors and adults for obscenity purposes, that Court promptly proceeded to hold unconstitutional a different section of the same law. Specifically, the disapproved section prohibited the sale of "any . . . magazines . . . which would appeal to the lust of persons under the age of eighteen years or to their curiosity as to sex or to the anatomical difference between the sexes. . . ."

The Court, in a brief, unsigned opinion, declared that this standard was unconstitutionally vague, and went on to say: "Nor is it an answer to an argument that a particular regulation of expression is vague to say that it was adopted for the salutary purpose of protecting children. The permissible extent of vagueness is not directly proportional to, or a function of, the extent of the power to regulate or control expression with respect to children." Needless to say, here, too, we approve!

[*Rabeck v. New York*, U.S. Supreme Court, 36 U.S. Law Week, p. 3450, May 28, 1968.]—Harriet F. Pilpel in *PW*, 2 September.

A Critic Is Answered

Miss

Assistant Professor of Education
Department of Elementary Education
Campus

Dear Miss

I am sorry that this response is somewhat delayed from what I promised in my reply of 12 January to your inquiry about the source of books filed under the term NEGRO in our juvenile book collection.

Two reasons account for the delay. In the first place, I wanted to examine in detail, through my own reading, the example your class cited as being questionable on the basis of "perpetuating negative stereotypes." Secondly, I wanted to give myself time to think the whole question through within the frame of reference implicit in your students' critique.

Having done both of these things, I must honestly report to you that the specific request that the seventeen titles listed in your memorandum of December 13, 1967 be withdrawn from the collection is not one that I can, in good conscience, approve.

I give you this decision despite my agreement with many of the specific criticisms about the listed books. There are, of course, numerous authorities in the field of juvenile literature who would and do disagree with both of us about some or all of the titles. Several of them, for example, are "recommended" by Mrs. Augusta Baker, Coordinator of Children's Services at the New York Public Library, in her bibliography *Books about Negro Life for Children*, published in 1963. She "approves" of *Lonesome Boy*, *Bright April*, *Melindy's Happy Summer*, *Melindy's Medal*, *Ladycake Farm*, *My Dog Rusty*, and *Negro Folk Tales*.

Perhaps because she is Negro, Mrs. Baker has come to be regarded by many book selectors as a reliable arbiter in the field of books about Negro life for children. In fact, this Library used her list, some years back, to fill in our collection. I do not identify Mrs. Baker to vindicate our selections, but as a demonstration of the fact that even specialists in the field may differ; obviously, she may be as fallible in her judgment as the next "authority."

However, another consideration in all of this is the most decisive one in this particular case. It is that our juvenile collection exists for a different purpose, and is consequently of a different nature and scope, than one that is designed to be an ideal collection for use by children only.

The juvenile collection has been developed to meet the needs of the curriculum of the College. It is, of course, an adjunct to the courses in teaching methods. It. Third, the collection is designed as a representative Also, the children's literature courses are supported by selection of the entire field of juvenile and young people's books.

Since it is a representative collection, it must be both current and historical in its perspective. Thus, examples of Kate Greenway's illustrations are as important as those of Brian Wildsmith. The writings of 19th century missionaries in Africa appear alongside those about the most recent developments in Africa. As biographees, Booker T. Washington and Malcolm X may find themselves sharing the same shelf despite the light-year distance that separates them in terms of Black Peoples' realization of themselves and the world.

Indeed, in a collection such as ours, even *Little Black Sambo* (omitted from your list) needs to be represented (as it is), for this is a "collection of record," one that must provide the materials which will enable students to study and analyze the genre itself, that will show it not only as it is, but also as it has developed and changed. There is even a case to be made for deliberate inclusion of "bad books" for use as laboratory specimens for literary dissection and analysis.

For example, members of your class were able to undertake an examination of the genre and to establish criteria of desirability because they had available to them from our Library examples of the whole range. Using the standards of criticism they arrived at, they will now select for use in their classes those titles which seem to them of a positive quality and exclude their opposites. Thus, this experience illustrates the essential reason for the difference between our kind of collection and one in a public library or public school whose purpose is to serve the children themselves rather than students of literature and teachers of children.

In your memo, you ask some specific questions:

1. How are the children's books selected?
2. What are the criteria used?
3. Who may make recommendations for purchasing materials?
4. May educators serve on the reviewing committee?

1. There are about 200 titles in the Juvenile Reference area pertaining to selection of children's and young people's books. Also, various book reviewing media are

surveyed regularly, including such specialized sources as the *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, Elementary English, Grade Teacher, Growing Point, Horn Book, Junior Bookshelf, School Library Journal, Top of the News, Virginia Kirkus Service, Young Reader's Review*, and more general sources such as *Saturday Review, Library Journal*, and the *New York Times Book Review*.

2. The criteria are implicit in my prior comments; basically, they are the same as those applied to the selection of any book acquired for our collections.

3. Librarians, faculty members and students in the College may all participate in recommending materials for purchase. Students are invited to submit their requests via the Library suggestion box. Requests from the teaching faculty are normally submitted through the departmental book coordinator.

4. The concept of the "reviewing committee" is one that is used primarily in public and school libraries where book review sessions seem to serve a useful function, especially for librarians from branches and departments. Here, as in other academic libraries, individual members of the academic community are presumed best qualified to develop collections of library materials in their specialties, because of their subject expertise and knowledge of instructional needs. As joint participants in the educative process, librarians share this responsibility with the teaching faculty.

In line with your expressed interest in the selection of materials, I have already arranged for the bibliography of recommended books compiled by the members of the class to be checked against our collection so that any titles we do not have can be ordered immediately. Any future requests will be honored in the same way.

Your offer to help in any way possible is appreciated and important. Together, teaching faculty, students and librarians can exert conscientious efforts to assure the availability of books and the bibliographical guidance for their evaluation. However, the problem is not solely a library one and I believe that there is a broader role that all of us could constructively assume in this important area. For example, the Library would welcome the opportunity to participate more directly in the preparation of classroom teachers, by means of lectures to classes in Elementary Education, seminars on the resources available in a subject area and their effective utilization, etc. The kind of concern you have shown in developing criteria for evaluation of library resources for use in the classroom needs to be emphasized beyond courses in children's literature. Moreover, the emphasis should apply not only in the area of Negro life but to all "non-majority" groups and in the whole area of inter personal relations.

I am sure that, because of this project in Ed. members of the class have acquired increased knowledge and judgment in the use of books and libraries and a heightened awareness that will guard them and their future pupils against contributing to the "perpetuation of negative stereotypes." I congratulate you on having had the perception and initiative to carry out this project. You have brought to our attention not just a library problem but a fundamental need in the education of

classroom teachers who will use, and guide their pupils in using, library resources.

Please be assured of my continuing interest and concern and know that I am at your service in any way the Library can help.

Sincerely,
Morris Polan, Librarian
California State College at Los Angeles

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