



AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE OFFICES: 50 EAST HURON STREET, CHICAGO 11

RESOLUTION ON LOYALTY PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, A democracy must preserve freedom of thought and expression if it is to survive; and

WHEREAS, Loyalty investigations of library employees may create an atmosphere of suspicion and fear and tend to limit intellectual freedom by rendering it hazardous to hold or express other than popular or orthodox views; and

WHEREAS, Librarians have a special responsibility to provide information on all sides of controversial issues, but cannot do so if intellectual conformity becomes a factor affecting their employment or tenure; and

WHEREAS, The American Library Association has received evidence that loyalty tests may easily lead to the violation of the constitutional rights of library employees, and in some cases already have done so; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the Council of the American Library Association, strongly protest loyalty programs which inquire into a library employee's thoughts, reading matter, associates, or membership in organizations, unless a particular person's definite actions warrant such investigation. We approve the affirmation of allegiance to our Government. We condemn loyalty oaths and investigations which permit the discharge of an individual without a fair hearing. We hold that in a fair hearing the accused is furnished a statement of the charges against him, is allowed to see the evidence against him, is given an opportunity to prepare and to present his defense and to question his accusers with the aid of legal counsel, is presumed innocent until proved guilty, and is given the opportunity, if adjudged guilty, of judicial review.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
July 21, 1950