

Intellectual Freedom Committee of the American Library Association

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LIBRARIANS AND THE CLIMATE OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

Amid a welter of moves by citizen groups, churches, and government officials which posed a potential (and often an actual) threat to intellectual freedom, the words and actions of librarians in recent months stand out in sharp and welcome contrast and reveal the library as the traditional champion and bulwark of intellectual freedom across the land. Moves to resist censorship, steps to thwart censorship before it starts, declarations towards a positive policy of selection on a broad front, and programs to preserve the freedom of the mind bear eloquent testimony to the librarians' belief in the principles set forth in the ALA Library Bill of Rights,

Georgia: The Georgia Library Association on Nov. 7, 1957, adopted an official "Statement of Policy on the Collection and Services of the Library," which was published in full in The Southeastern Librarian, Winter 1957 issue. Highlights from the statement:

We believe that freedom to learn and free access to facts is an indispensable part of education in a free democracy... We believe also that the average citizen of Georgia, if given access to the facts, is capable of arriving at the truth himself, or of being able to distinguish between the good and the bad,...

We trust the citizens of Georgia to recognize propaganda, and to reject obscenity. We do not believe they need the help of censors to assist them in this task. In view of the long history of the efforts of the law courts to decide what constitutes obscenity, we believe that it is impossible for any group of individuals to be the moral arbiters of what is good and bad for others,...

We deplore any effort to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression...

Librarians, along with parents and teachers, have a responsibility to prepare children and young people to meet the diversity of experiences in life to which they will be exposed. . .

We believe that in a free society each individual is free to determine for himself what he wishes to read, and each group is free to determine what it will recommend to its freely associated members. . . But no individual or group has the right to impose its point of view or concepts of politics or morality upon other members of a democratic society. . .

We do not make these statements in the comfortable belief that what people read is unimportant. We believe rather that what people read is deeply important; that ideas can be dangerous; but that the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society. Freedom itself is a dangerous way of life, but it is ours.

West Virginia: Confronted by the mayor with a threat that he would "use his influence to withhold future contribution by the city" for the support of the public library if it continued to circulate Peyton Place, head librarian Nicholas Winowich said the book would continue to be circulated. "We are not," said he, "in the business of censoring books." (Charleston, W. Va., Gazette, Feb. 16)

California: Members of the CLA's Committee on Intellectual Freedom, long one of the profession's most active combatants of censorship, continue to be involved in legislative hearings and other matters affecting the climate of intellectual freedom in that state.

William Eshelman, 1957 California CIF chairman, told an assembly subcommittee that the CLA would welcome legislation which "better defined what is meant by 'obscene or indecent writing'" and "permitted the courts to accept the testimony of qualified literary critics as experts in cases where literary works are on trial for obscenity," in a prepared statement (Nov. 26). The statement also expressed the Association's interest in other details of Section 311 of the Penal Code and its concern that "the writing of any new legislation or amendments. . . be in harmony with the concept of our Republic, based on the principle of democracy, with the full right of the people to have the opportunity to enjoy intelligent, constructive education, thereby providing the full right of the people to the opportunity to make their own decisions. "

An unusually complete account of a San Mateo County meeting entitled "Meeting to Organize Extra-Legal Action," prepared on behalf of the California CIF and the School Library Association of California's Book Selection Policies Committee, was circulated by LeRoy Merritt, 1958 California CIF chairman, to the ACLU, the Friends' Committee on Legislation, the ALA Committee on Intellectual Freedom, the American Book Publishers' Council, The San Francisco Chronicle and the San Mateo Times. Remarkable both for its forthrightness and its clarity, the account proves a useful (and often illuminating) document of the initial steps of volunteer drives instigated by churches and citizen groups. The meeting involved such diverse groups and individuals as the PTA, citizen councils, postmasters, "community leaders" throughout San Mateo County, a CIF member (who prepared the account), a city attorney, a state legislator, and the county chairman of the Catholic National Office for Decent Literature. Central figure of the meeting was the last-named, who came equipped with copies of the NODL list which were distributed, a

program of action which he described, and already-prepared kits of materials "ready for use...for each town in San Mateo County" which were given out to apparently predetermined "representatives" as the names of the communities were read off.

The close attention and the wide publicity given to the initial move and subsequent developments in San Mateo County bore fruitful results. Latest indication is that the drive has been called off, as reported in the San Francisco Examiner (March 8) under the headline "Citizen Censor Group Dissolves."

In another move aimed at strengthening the climate of intellectual freedom, California librarians are drafting a policy statement on "Intellectual Freedom in Libraries" which should prove helpful to librarian and layman alike.

Illinois: The Illinois Library Association has taken "positive action" by setting up an award to an individual or a group "exhibiting a high degree of intellectual freedom," according to Robert Lightfoot, chairman of the newly created committee to make the award. (Champaign News-Gazette, Feb. 27)

New York: The Queens Borough Public Library, confronted with a library user's objection to Peyton Place, spoke out soundly and sensibly in a letter written by Margaret Cole of Book Selection for Chief Librarian Harold W. Tucker's signature on the role of the librarian as selector. Excerpts:

A public library belongs to all the people it serves and must provide books to satisfy a tremendous variety of readers. We believe that freedom to read is essential in our democracy. To ban books from our collection because some of our readers feel that they should be kept from others would inevitably result in a poor library or none at all. . .

Basically, we believe that we must protect our public's right to choose their reading, and as we do not ban books that may be disagreeable to you, we do not deprive you of books that others might question. If you can look upon the books that lack appeal for you as belonging to other readers, and think of those you enjoy as your share of our Library, I am sure you will continue to find growing pleasure and insight in reading books from our
branch.

(The above quotes are from the copy of the letter which was sent to the Newsletter editor. The letter was published in full in Lj, March 1, p. 712-13.)

Thus as 1957 drew to a close and 1958 began, librarians in California, in Georgia, in West Virginia, in Illinois, and in New York lived up to their traditional credo voiced in the Library Bill of Rights and, each in his own way, contributed to the climate of intellectual freedom.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND OBSCENITY

Net effect of recent actions by such diverse U. S. agencies as the Copyright Office, Post Office, Treasury Department, Justice Department, and Supreme Court was to herald a liberal, but not loose, interpretation of obscenity by the federal government.

The Supreme Court: The highest tribunal was asked by the Justice Department to vacate lower court decisions which pronounced some 9,000 Danish, Swedish, and German imported nudist magazines "obscene." Such "confessions of error," noted the Antiquarian Bookman account (Dec. 2), are usually granted by the Supreme Court. In AB's words: "major breakthrough in the moot field of 'obscenity'."

Reversed by the Supreme Court was a police-born Chicago ban on the French film Game of Love, an action by which the Court reaffirmed its traditional stand against film censorship in any form (Houston Post, Nov. 21).

In two brief orders, the Supreme Court unanimously reversed a Post Office ban on the mailing of two nudist magazines - Sunshine and Health and Sun Magazine, both U. S. publications, edited by Dr. Hsley Boone, a 79-year-old Baptist minister - and One, a magazine dealing with homosexuality. (N. Y. Times, Jan. 14)

The Treasury Department: Climaxing a 7-year legal battle between the late Dr. Kinsey's Institute for Sex Research and the Customs Bureau, Judge Palmieri's decision lifting the Customs-imposed ban on a collection of imported materials was not contested by the Treasury Department (under which Customs operates). The imports included photographs, Chinese paintings, statuettes, books and "lavatory wall inscriptions."

From Judge Palmieri's 27-page decision - and from the Treasury Department's acquiescence - emerged a new (and helpful) measuring-stick for obscenity: "Who sees it." Said the judge: "What is obscenity to one person is but a subject of scientific inquiry to another." In declaring the collection "not obscene," the judge held that, though the material might be vulgar, coarse, or indecent in itself, it was destined for use in research by qualified scholars and not by the general public, and that there was no reasonable probability that it would appeal to their prurient interest. (N. Y. Times, Jan. 3) Headlined the Christian Science Monitor (Jan. 9): "A Sensible Guide." The Hartford Courant (Jan. 6) editorialized; "An Adult View on Obscenity." The Treasury Department, in accepting Judge Palmieri's opinion, noted that the Customs Bureau could "effectively and beneficially" apply a standard which defines obscenity in terms of the recipient of imported material (N. Y. Times, Jan. 3).

The Copyright Office: The Copyright Office, which in the past has withheld certificates of copyright from any printed matter it considered to be illegal (as "fraudulent" or "obscene," among other reasons), henceforth will register all materials until proven obscene or until its own powers are clarified. Office feels it is not equipped either to make acknowledgedly difficult decisions on the obscenity of individual books and magazines or to give hearing to authors of works deemed obscene. (N. Y. Times, Jan. 17)

The Post Office: Late in 1957, the Post Office for the first time established an official procedure to give the mailers of materials excluded as obscene a prompt and fair hearing. Under new regulations, no local postmaster can decide on his own to ban any matter from the mails; procedure provides for sending "sample" to a specified official of the Post Office, and for other subsequent specific steps, described in Antiquarian Bookman (Dec. 2), which commented: "This means a speeding of rules and decisions."

WHAT THE STATES ARE DOING

Legislation in action: Rumblings of dissatisfaction both with the laws themselves and the tactics employed in enforcing them are being heard in some states.

North Carolina's 1957 anti-obscenity law gives a county sheriff, upon discovery of obscene matter, the power only to report it to "a judge of Superior, Municipal, or County Court, or Justice of the Peace," after which the judge will issue proper warrants to prosecute the offender for the dissemination of obscene matter (Charlotte News, Dec. 16).

When the state sheriffs' association last fall sent out a blacklist of objectionable magazines to its members (Dec. 1957 Newsletter), many sheriffs were loath to get involved in the complexities of censorship; others jumped zestfully into the fray and banned not only publications on the list but added others considered undesirable either by the sheriffs themselves or by citizen committees. Cumberland County's sheriff, assisted by a "Community Conscience Committee" composed of adults and teenagers(!), found 40 periodicals objectionable and labeled another 15 "for adults only" (Greensboro News, Dec. 5).

The Charlotte News (Dec. 16) noted that two basic provisions of the law were being violated: (1) under the law a judge or jury is to decide whether the material in question is obscene; (2) action can be taken only against a particular item (the blacklists ban a magazine by title, not by issue). The censorship apparently is successful only because of distributor "cooperation." A Dec. 21 editorial in the same paper, criticizing "censorship by county sheriffs and other self-appointed guardians of public purity," stated: "Government censorship is bad enough. Private censorship is merely a polite form of lynch law and as such is utterly intolerable."

Calling the sheriffs' action "capricious," the president of the Comics Magazine Association stated that the sheriffs were using a list compiled in 1955 and that 15 of the listed comics were no longer being published and the other 5 conformed to the Comic Code Authority, which is even more stringent than the N. C. statute (Winston-Salem Journal, Dec. 18).

In Rhode Island, the blacklist activities of the Commission to Encourage Morality in Youth (Dec. 1957 Newsletter) were scored in identical resolutions introduced in both houses of the General Assembly. Declaring that the commission was violating the "obvious intent" - i. e., the encouragement of morality in youth by positive methods - of the legislation which created it, the resolutions called for: (1) a prompt report to the Assembly on a positive program; (2) cessation of the "censorship policy until, if and when the commission receives explicit legislative authority to censor books and magazines." The resolutions further charged "the effectiveness of the work of this commission over the past two years is questionable in the light of the continued growth of juvenile delinquency." (Pawtucket Times, Jan. 17)

In Vermont, a Burlington group -- composed of two university professors, a speech therapist, and a clergyman -- have pledged court actions "to test the constitutionality" of that state's obscene literature law, and "determine how far it permits public officials to go in... restricting the sale or distribution of newspapers, books, and other publications." The group has charged that the law enacted last year

"purportedly for the protection of minors... has resulted in banning certain books from an entire community." (Burlington Press, Dec. 29)

Proposed legislation: On the other hand, proposals for new laws -- often to tighten and strengthen already existing statutes -- are looming on some state horizons.

A California Assembly committee, holding hearings in late November to determine the effect of "girlie" magazines on youth and whether stronger anti-pornography laws are needed, heard conflicting testimony. A city prosecutor testified there is no increase in sex crimes because of magazines; a mental hygiene hospital staff member testified that reading is one of the causal effects of anti-social behavior. Committee Chairman Louis Francis stated that 15 million issues of girlie magazines were published annually and estimated 75% to be in the hands of teenagers; a city attorney said there is no evidence that minors are the main purchasers. A district attorney considered present laws adequate for the protection of juveniles; a director of county juvenile work felt a separate statute needed. A lawyer believed the only workable law would be one which clearly and completely spelled out the things the legislature did not want circulated; a police captain suggested that the statute should be written in general terms to allow for changing interpretation as social conditions change. Another officer thought some distributors exert "tie-in" pressures on their outlets; a distributor denied such pressure, saying that "package deals" are in violation of both federal and state laws. (CLA Intellectual Freedom Committee: "Notes on hearings, Nov. 25-26.")

Commented the Los Angeles Times (Nov. 28): "The committee realizes it has a difficult task on its hands in trying to stay well within the dividing line that distinguishes between constructive regulation of the smut traffic and censorship." The San Jose Mercury (Nov. 30) observed: "The Assembly committee will have a taut tightrope to walk." But the committee evidently is willing to try. Chairman Francis, concluding that the hearings revealed a "serious impact caused by sexy and nude magazines and photographs upon the youth of this state," has announced that new laws against pornographic literature sales to minors and against "tie-in" sales will be introduced at the next general session (San Mateo Times & News-Leader, Jan. 4).

After five years of blacklisting publications they considered obscene, the Georgia Literature Commission has admitted failure in achieving any real effect upon the wares offered by Georgia newstands. Newstands "still are full of filth," Commission Chairman Rev. James Wesberry told the Senate Judiciary Committee in an appeal for approval of a bill greatly increasing the board's powers (Atlanta Journal, Feb. 11). The bill would give the commission authority to obtain a temporary injunction forbidding the sale of literature adjudged obscene by the commission (without the commission's being held responsible for damages or court costs in the event of a court decision that the commission was wrong). Objected the Macon Telegraph (Jan. 11): "We most certainly do not need to build up a super policing agency with quasi-judicial powers but without adequate safeguards."

In Massachusetts, committee hearings were held on 3 bills to regulate obscene literature. The bill calling for a control commission (a similar plan was rejected last year) was particularly distasteful to some of the lawmakers. Rep. William Otis pointed out that the attorney general has full powers now and "the court is the place where the matter should be determined" and "not through setting up 'do-gooders' no matter how well meaning." (Fall River Herald News, Jan. 15)

In New York, where a heavy volume of legislation against offensive publications is already on the books, legislators are hard-put for new proposals. A two-day series of January hearings brought reports of failures and successes in community efforts to clean up magazine stands, a plea for outright censorship of magazines by a church organization, strong opposition to any form of censorship by a clergyman, and a request by a district attorney that the penalty for distributing obscene literature be made lighter to make it easier to obtain convictions (Albany Knickerbocker News, Jan. 30, 31). Whereupon the committee introduced bills to impose heavier penalties and to define more clearly the type of literature deemed offensive (Troy Record, Feb. 13).

TEN NORTH FREDERICK IN TROUBLE - AND IN THE WHITE HOUSE

John O'Hara's Ten North Frederick is under fire again. At the end of a 5-month probe of "smut book" sales in Albany, N. Y., the grand jury handed up 64 indictments charging an Albany book and magazine distributor and a dozen national publishers with conspiracy to distribute and sell indecent literature. Only book named was the 1956 National Book Award novel. (Said Confidential's attorney: "We may be legitimized by association.") Named in the indictment was Bantam Books, publisher of the paperbound edition; no charges were filed against the original hardbound publisher, Random House. (Albany Knickerbocker News, Dec. 6, 13)

Ten North Frederick is no stranger to the courts. In January 1957, Detroit's police censor bureau issued a ban on the sale and distribution of the paperbound edition; subsequently the ban was extended to cover the hardbound edition. Later a court judge ruled police officials had acted without legal power and ordered the ban lifted. (March, June 1957 Newsletter) The novel was also among items seized in an "obscenity haul" last fall by the Omaha police vice detail, apparently because policemen noted a clipping pinned to a card advertising the book, headlined "O'Hara Novel Ousted from Detroit Shelves" (Omaha World-Herald, Nov. 15).

Despite its "unsavory reputation," Ten North Frederick continues to travel in the best company. January brought a report that it was among the 200 volumes published in the last four years which the American Booksellers Association had selected for presentation to the White House "home library" (Washington Post & Times Herald, Jan. 1). Quipped a Pittsfield, Mass., Berkshire Eagle (Jan. 11) reader: "It is rumored that stout hearts are quaking on the other side of Lebanon Mountain for fear the Eisenhower grandchildren may find time to browse the shelves during one of their Washington sojourns."

AND ALSO

Expurgations, deletions, and re-writes: Tampering with text and traditional phrases in a kind of frantic endeavor to avoid offending all the imagined anybodies in the world (Sept., Dec. 1957 Newsletter) continues. Lately involved are two such disparate entities as the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the New York Port Authority.

The CBC in late November declared the use of the word "Yank" (lumped in with a spate of others, among them "squarehead," "Jap," "Chink," "dago" et al.) taboo as being derogatory. CBC's action set editorial tongues in the U.S. wagging (mostly in cheek). "As far as we know," wrote the Washington Post (reprinted in

the Omaha World-Herald, Dec. 16), "the only place that 'Yankee' is a dirty word is in Milwaukee." And the Waco, Tex., Times-Herald (Dec. 2), noting the historic Southern antipathy to "Yank" and to its later expansion "Damyantee," confessed that "the South has learned to live with the word... and most of us feel a sort of wry affection for the damthing."

The classic lines by Emma Lazarus ("Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to be free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore, Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door") have long greeted immigrants arriving in New York Harbor. Four of these five lines also greet the immigrants arriving at the new Idlewild Airport. Missing is the line "The wretched refuse of your teeming shore." Explained the New York Port Authority, whose director deleted the line: Now that mass immigration is over, it "might be offensive to the fine people of Europe" who are coming in. "Blue pencil bushwhackers," snorted the St. Louis Globe-Democrat (Jan. 6), adding, "How far will such clumsy butchers go in mangling literature by their mawkish good intentions?" After a pointedly exaggerated analysis of other possibly "offensive" words in the four remaining lines, the Greensboro, N. C., News (Dec. 31) suggested, "Why not drop the whole thing and put up a sign something like this: 'Through these portals pass the least fatigued, richest, most unhooded, and unwretched future citizens of America'?"

Customs confiscations to L. C.: Annually, the accumulated bulk of imported materials adjudged "obscene or immoral" by U. S. Customs officials (magazines, books, photographs, movies, etc.) is shipped off to the Library of Congress, where samples of every type not hitherto represented are retained and stored in a special collection in the rare book room. In the words of an L. C. spokesman, "anything of value for research in history, art, literature, linguistics, manners and customs, and psychological and legal studies" is kept, to be used when asked for specifically (by title or name of object) by researchers. Librarians emphasize that the collection is not for browsing - in the words of Paul Healy's column from Washington: "No fishing expeditions allowed." (Wheeling, W. Va., Intelligencer, Feb. 10)

"Planned parenthood" exhibit censored: A pamphlet-rack display of literature on planned parenthood in the Wilmington (Del.) City Board of Health Building was ordered removed by the City Council as "abhorrent" and a "disgrace". Board of Health in defiance of Council order directed city health commissioner to leave the material on display. The Wilmington Journal-Every Evening (Feb. 8) condemned the Council as "out of bounds"; commended Board of Health stand.

Helpful definition: Helpful for librarians and bookmen alike is the distinction drawn by Antiquarian Bookman editor Sol M. Malkin (AB, Nov. 18) between the U. S. Treasury and Post Office actions involving books: "The bookman must always remember the difference between the Treasury Dept. which takes care of importations (because of customs and duties) and acts against the book and the Post Office Dept. which is internal and acts against the mailer. Although neither department publishes lists of 'banned books', customs officials are apt to be less fanatic and will usually let most items go through if assured they are for professional use, institutions, libraries, etc., not for general public, and if strong written protest is made direct to local and DC officials."

Movie censorship continues: The U. S. Supreme Court's decision on Game of Love

notwithstanding, local moves to censor films continue. In Memphis, the city's four-woman board of censors saw Brigitte Bardot in And God Created Woman, pronounced it "lewd, lascivious, and immoral," and banned it. They also took a look at Street of Sinners and The Careless Years, both of which deal with juvenile delinquency, and banned them on "general principles." (Memphis Press-Scimitar, Dec. 14, Memphis Commercial Appeal, Dec. 20) Observed one lawyer: "I would like to see the city attorney or an assistant specifically assigned to confer with these ladies and see that they comply with the law" (Memphis Commercial Appeal, Jan. 2).

Meanwhile, the Chicago police, nothing daunted, were at it again; the target this time was Nana. A policewoman, when asked in court what specific pornography she objected to, replied, "I didn't see anywhere any phonograph in the movie," according to the account in Antiquarian Bookman, Jan. 27.

New category added to Legion of Decency ratings: Henceforth movies will be rated by the Legion of Decency as follows: A-1, movies for general patronage, including children; A-2, morally unobjectionable for adults and adolescents (the new category); A-3, approved for adults only; B, morally objectionable in part for all age groups; C, condemned (UP, Nov. 20).

SILVER LINING

Judicial sense: Judge Frank Gusweiler, in dismissing a charge of exhibiting obscene materials against four magazine vendors, declared a section of the Ohio state law dealing with such exhibition "unconstitutional" on the grounds that it is "too encompassing and would close down newspapers and libraries, if enforced" (Bellefontaine, O., Examiner, Feb. 3).

Safeguards against secret censorship proposed: The New York Bar Association has recognized the restriction on the "freedom to read" imposed by pressure groups who would remove certain books from libraries and schools. Noting that the removal is usually done quietly, "almost secretly," the association has urged legislation which would compel public school and library authorities to hold public hearings before removing recognized classics or reference books from general access to readers. (N. Y. Times, Feb. 1)

Westchester refusal: Rejected by the Westchester County Board of Supervisors was a resolution to set up a "Decent Literature Council." Reason: "Legal machinery already exists for that purpose." (N. Y. Herald Tribune, Dec. 10)

Omaha clergy lukewarm on censorship: Twelve Omaha clergymen, chosen at random to speak for the city's denominations, were polled by the World-Herald (Dec. 28) on how to deal with obscene literature. Ten rejected censorship as the best answer; only two favored tight censorship.

N. Y. Supreme Court overrules New York City license head: License Commissioner McCaffrey's threat of revoking newsdealers' licenses if they continued to handle certain nudist magazines was termed unconstitutional advance censorship by the state supreme court. Read the opinion: "We cannot construe the powers of the Commissioner of Licenses... as including the institution of an informal system of censorship under the guise of enforcing his rules and regulations." (N. Y. Times, Dec. 4)

YOU MIGHT LIKE TO READ. . .

Fellman, David: The Censorship of Books. Madison, Univ. of Wisconsin Press, 1957. 35p.

Review of major developments in censorship and freedom of publication over the years at the hands of legislatures, courts, the Post Office, and private groups.

Blackwood, James R.: "Show Biz and the Censor," Presbyterian Life, Dec. 28, 1957, pp. 11-12+.

Provocative article on non-governmental censorship of radio, TV, and movies. Sees the real problem of entertainment censorship as "how to put limits on the limitations themselves" which are self-imposed by the various media.

Mood, Robert G.: "Let 'em Read Trash," Elementary English, Nov. 1957, pp. 444-50.

Discussion of the dangers of censorship. Voices belief that it is unwise to shield children from all violence, terror, and death in their reading. "The way to cure a child of fear of the dark is not to deny the existence of dark, but to walk with him in the dark. . ."

Dunlap, Leslie W.: "Censorship." In the American Library Annual, 1957-1958. N. Y., Bowker, 1958, pp. 134-6.

Concise summary of the year's developments in censorship, drawn largely from the Newsletter accounts, by the CIF secretary.

McGraw, William Corbin: "Pollyanna Rides Again," Saturday Review, March 22, 1958, pp. 37-8.

Attacks children's librarians as censors of children's literature. With a reply by Frances Lander Spain, Coordinator, Children's Services, NYPL.

WHAT NEXT?

Detroit was always like that: In 1934 Walter B. Pitkin's Life Begins at Forty was one of 150 books seized by Detroit police. Reason, according to news accounts: "The officers weren't exactly prepared to say. . . But they were pretty certain that the Life Begins at Forty title had more than one meaning, if one took time to look into it." (PW, Dec. 15, 1934, p. 2146)

Republic in danger: The current wave of indecent magazines "known to the high school crowd across America" constitutes "the most sustained and insidious attack on the moral standards of this nation ever witnessed in the history of our republic," in the words of two national church leaders, writing in the Feb. 17 issue of Christianity Today (Chattanooga News-Free Press, Feb. 15).

Mark as Marxist: Reason for New York authorities' action on Huckleberry Finn (Sept., Dec. 1957 Newsletter), according to the Communist house organ Soviet Culture: book was "subversive" and "attacked racial discrimination and mercilessly exposed the morals of big business in the United States" (Cincinnati Enquirer, Dec. 24).