

Vol. III, No. 4

June, 1955

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CONFERENCE ON BOOK SELECTION. The Intellectual Freedom Committee and the Public Libraries Division of the ALA are jointly sponsoring a Book Selection Work Conference at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia July 2 and 3. Purpose is to bring together librarians, particularly from the smaller public libraries, to consider policy questions in book selection.

Co-chairmen of the conference are John Henderson, Los Angeles County Library, and Ruth Gregory, Waukegan (Ill.) Public Library. Among the speakers to address participants are Gerald Johnson of the Baltimore Sun; Miriam Putnam, Andover (Mass.) Public Library; and Eleanor Phinney, Library School, Rutgers University.

Approximately half the time will be given over to discussion of problems and policy in book selection by groups of no more than 20 participants. Discussions are scheduled for rooms in the Sylvania and John Bartram Hotels as well as the Bellevue Stratford. (Tip to late registrants: try the Sylvania and Bartram for reservations.)

Registration is limited to 300. Send fee of \$3 to Paul Bixler at once, Antioch College Library, Yellow Springs, Ohio.

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THREE TEXTBOOKS BANNED IN GEORGIA. The Georgia Board of Education has banned three textbooks--a history, a book of sociology and a song book--from use in state schools for not being in accord with the "Southern way of life" (Atlanta Constitution, May 3). In doing so, it turned down recommendations in the majority report of the present professional textbook committee. The committee felt that "the good outweighs the bad" in the books.

The sociology book, the board said, reflected unfavorably on Southern life and the history didn't give the South sufficient credit in the Revolutionary War. The board rejected the song book because in two of Stephen Foster's folk melodies about plantation life the word "darkies" had been changed to "young folks" or "brothers." Someone in Washington had made the changes. The publisher offered to correct the wording, but the board decided against adoption if the changes were made.

The board also made plans to set up a more permanent textbook committee of Georgia school teachers to give three summer months to screen all books in use and proposed for use in state schools.

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SAN FRANCISCO'S TEACHERS GAG RULE. Several months ago the San Francisco Board of Education adopted a rule prohibiting teachers from participating in local political campaigns. Latest development is a bill introduced in the California State legislature forbidding local school boards anywhere in the state from enacting such measures. The bill passed the Assembly unanimously (San Francisco Chronicle, May 10).

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EDITORIAL

Who defends intellectual freedom in these days? Does the defender have to be a "liberal"? Or does the conservative, too, have a part to play? These questions were pointed up recently in an incident at the University of Nevada.

In March Russell Kirk, a leader in a movement which has come to be known as the "new conservatism," published a book called Academic Freedom. It dealt in part with a controversy over the dismissal of biology professor Frank Richardson by President Minard W. Stout of the University of Nevada after a disagreement between the two men over educational policy for the university. Later Richardson was restored to his position by the Nevada Supreme Court. In reviewing the case, Kirk's book accused President Stout of academic autocracy.

In April both Kirk and his publisher Henry Regnery said they learned that two University of Nevada students had wanted to read the book, had found a temporary card for it in the University Library indicating that it had been ordered in March, but had been told that Library Director James J. Hill, "because of the nature of the situation" refused to let the book circulate.

When we wrote Mr. Hill, he denied the charge, saying that, in keeping with the second provision of the Library Bill of Rights that material of all points of view should be made available, the library merely delayed putting a copy of the book on the shelves until other late but "more temperate" titles on the subject could be obtained...

Such was the manner in which Russell Kirk's book was launched in Nevada. But that may not be worth so much attention as the Kirk book itself. Not that Academic Freedom will receive sympathetic acceptance everywhere. Quite the contrary. But who in good conscience could not quote Kirk's definition of academic freedom as "security against hazards to the pursuit of truth by those persons whose lives are dedicated to conserving the intellectual heritage of the ages and to extending the realm of knowledge"?

We are witnessing today the strongest effort to put intellectual content into American Conservatism since the early days of the Republic. All of us interested in intellectual freedom should welcome this effort. For an important element in the credo of the true conservative is his belief in liberty. On this score we quote from Clinton Rossiter's recent Conservatism in America (Knopf), a book which in its breadth and its sympathies we find more congenial than Mr. Kirk's: "In the final reckoning, [conservatism] defends the desire for human liberty hardly less staunchly than it does the need for social order."

In these days, we conclude, intellectual freedom stands in great need of more than its traditional defenses. To be defended against totalitarian example and attack abroad and from authoritarian erosion at home, conservative support could make the difference between victory and defeat.

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Having said so much, may we then, in a kind of postscript, question some of the conclusions in W. T. Couch's "The Sainted Book Burners" in the April issue of the Freeman. Mr. Couch contends that the American Library Association and its Intellectual Freedom Committee have sponsored and assisted an "undercover censorship by liberals." Much of the evidence he adduces is dated, and while some of it can surely be answered, it is not pertinent perhaps for us to do so here. But we would ask: What is the current evidence that the A.L.A. or its Intellectual Freedom Committee is censoring "anti-Communist writings in private while condemning all censorship in public"? We can say only that we do not consider ourselves above criticism. Indeed, we welcome it if and when it is forthcoming on specific issues.

Not long after we read Mr. Couch's article, we received a reading list of 33 books entitled "The World Conspiracy," issued by the library commission of a midwestern state to "aid the reader in knowing the frightening facts of the world-wide conspiracy of Communism and the part it has played in our United States of America." The selections, and the annotations that accompanied them, not only repudiate American policy at home and abroad from 1933 to 1953 but hold such policy to be informed by conspiracy and treason. From this list one would assume that the state government, if it is well represented by its library commission, is now prepared to secede from the Union. One might argue, presumably, that the A.L.A. or its Intellectual Freedom Committee was responsible for the list's obvious bias, but we don't believe Mr. Couch or anyone else would seriously claim that one.

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POST OFFICE BANS. What began as the first direct court test of the Comstock Act of 1873, which gives the Postmaster General authority to censor literature and art through the mail, ended in "no trial" when the Post Office, after first withholding a limited edition of Lysistrata, decided to return the book to its owner, Harry A. Levinson of Beverly Hills, Calif. (N. Y. Times, March 19). Assisting in the action which did not come to a test was the American Civil Liberties Union, which contended that while the ACLU did not object to banning obscene material, it did object to an 80-year-old law which gave the Postmaster General power violating freedoms of speech and press...

The Post Office ban on Pravda and Izvestia except to "authorized" persons was widely criticized and satirized in newspaper editorials. Joining in criticism of the decision to "enforce ignorance" were columnist George Sokolsky and Francis Walter, chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee. A strong protest from the American Committee of Cultural Freedom, according to that committee's Newsletter, brought a letter from William C. O'Brien, Assistant Solicitor in charge of Fraud and Mailability Division saying, "copies of the said publicat-

publications are going to subscribers thereof as far as the Post Office and the Customs Department are concerned."

What of other publications from the Soviet bloc and from China? A story in the Boston Post estimates that 18 per cent of foreign Communist publications entering through Boston customs go to "cultural and research centers"--scholars and libraries, for the most part; the rest is destroyed.

Other material ruled nonmailable foreign propaganda under the Foreign Agents Registration Act includes "Guatemala," "In China Now," "Indo China and World Peace," "Camp of Liberation," and "The Third Camp," in which the American Friends Service Committee has been interested. The purpose of "The Third Camp" is described as "to examine the claims of the policy variously known as the Third Force, the Third Camp, the Third Way, and (by its enemies) as Neutrality to be a practical policy for ending the cold war."...

The Post Office lost its fight to prevent continued publication of a magazine of which previous issues had been judged objectionable. The Supreme Court let stand a lower court ruling that obscene matter excluded from the "mails" must be confined to materials already published and duly found unlawful."...

Trud, Soviet daily trade union paper, printed a story saying that the Post Office has been destroying Soviet botany and chemistry journals shipped, by request, to the Marine Biological Laboratory library at Woods Hole, Mass. The laboratory says this is false, according to the Washington Post and Times Herald (March 30).

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A FEW LATE REFERENCES. "Extending the Frontiers of Freedom: the Role of the Public Library," a pamphlet available through the National Council of Jewish Women, 1 W. 47th st., New York (\$.15).!

"Report on Book Burning," by the Committee on the Bill of Rights of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. Condemns the attempts of individuals or groups to interfere "with the publication, circulation, or reading of any published matter" other than through the usual legal channels.

"Selected List of Books on Peace and Freedom," a mimeographed six-page annotated list available from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 2006 Walnut st., Philadelphia, Pa.

The Censorship of Books. Ed. by Walter M. Daniels. Reference Shelf, 26:5. H. W. Wilson Co. \$1.75.

Banned Books: Informal Notes on Some Books Banned for Various Reasons at Various Times and in Various Places. By Anne Haight. 2nd ed. Bowker, \$4; paper, \$.75.

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THE BOOK "RUSSIA." In its first ruling in two years of existence, the Textbook Commission of the New York State Board of Education

decided, according to the N. Y. Times (March 21), that the book Russia by Vernon Ives, president of Holiday House, was not subversive. The book was the center of a dispute (Newsletter III: 1, p. 2-3) in New Hyde Park, Long Island last October, and has been attacked elsewhere in New York state (Newsletter III: 2, p.7).

The commission, in answering a charge of subversion by a taxpayer in Garden City, ruled that the book was neither "seditious in character" nor "disloyal to the United States." It added, according to the Times, that it was powerless to strike at the book's "half-truths," but questioned its value as a reference or text in public schools.

The book is a 25-page volume, written for the 11-15 age group in 1943 and reissued with one minor change in 1951. In Elmira, N. Y., according to the local Telegram (March 27), the book was dropped from school libraries, but retained by the public library. In a statement to Publishers' Weekly (April 23, p. 1941), author Ives said that the book was dated, and difficulties in obtaining reliable information were still too great to attempt a thorough revision.

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"FREEDOM TO READ" IN MILWAUKEE. The Board of Trustees of the Milwaukee Public Library has been debating a statement on the freedom to read. The board is already operating under the A.L.A.'s Library Bill of Rights. But it has been undecided whether to adopt the Westchester Freedom to Read statement outright or a version modified by a committee of the Board of Trustees. Difference between the two proposals is said to be: Westchester statement is primarily defensive, detailing things librarians should not be required to do and should keep other people from doing; whereas the trustees' statement is more positive in tone, emphasizing things the library should do. (Milwaukee Sentinel, April 14).

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ARLINGTON MAN ASSAILS BOOKS AND SCHOOL BOARDS. An attack on Arlington, Va., school library books and a demand that the Arlington School Board resign came to naught recently, but only after the attacker had forced revision of a state manual used in Virginia schools. B. N. Miller, Arlington welding firm operator, told Virginia's Governor Thomas B. Stanley that "you'll find the same wording and phrasing in some of these school books that you find in the Communist Manifesto" (Washington Post and Times Herald, May 14). Next day he called unsuccessfully for the school board's resignation.

School Superintendent T. Edward Rutter said he had "complete confidence" in Evelyn Thornton, supervisor of libraries, who is in charge of book selection. Miss Thornton said that most of the books are selected from lists approved by the State Board of Education or the A.L.A.

Miller, according to the Post and Times Herald, believes school authorities have two goals: to prevent children from getting an education and to indoctrinate them with socialism. The trouble with the educational program, he said, began when "John Dewey, and a lot of other so-called

educators, started making trips to Russia," and returned with "progressive education."

In a letter to the Norfolk (Va.) Ledger Dispatch (April 20) Miller earlier expressed surprise that the Virginia State Board of Education did not resign. This had followed a letter of his to the Richmond News Leader (March 8) quoting passages from the official teaching manual, Course of Study for Virginia Elementary Schools, Grades I-VII to prove his contention that the book was "anti-free enterprise." A News Leader editorial in the same issue, called the book written in 1934 and revised in 1943 "pro-Socialist," and Governor Stanley, responding to Miller's letter and the editorial, called in all copies of the 553-page manual for revision (March 11). Although the Governor asked the Board of Education to ascertain the authors and said he would "not want to see any department of our government keep in its employ those expressing these beliefs," no one was fired and no one resigned.

Some of the book's passages considered "alien" by the Governor, were later quoted in an editorial of the Norfolk (Va.) Journal (April 2) as actually expressing the philosophy underlying "the religious beliefs held by the men who wrote the U. S. Constitution." To wit: "A democratic person is one who respects the rights of others... Man must learn to control his discoveries and inventions... Individuals are dependent upon other individuals and have responsibilities to them... The privileges and liberty that the citizen enjoys under a democratic form of government imply obligations for participation in the civic and political life."

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LATE NEWS. "We hold that the greatest right in the world is the right to be wrong, that in the exercise thereof people have an inviolable right to express their unbridled thoughts on all topics and personalities, being liable only for the abuse of that right.

"We hold that no person or set of persons can properly establish a standard of expression for others." --From the platform of the Independence League fathered by William Randolph Hearst, printed approvingly in the New York Journal and American, Feb. 1, 1924.

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BOOK SWAPS. Comic book swaps continue a popular pastime in spite of some criticism that they don't usually strike at fundamentals. Swaps have recently taken place at Ozark, Ala.; Willard, Ohio; Newburgh, N. Y.; Little Rock, Ark.; the Bronx, N. Y.; Tucson, Ariz.; Milford, Conn.; South Bend, Ind.; Douglaston, N. Y.; Knoxville, Iowa.; New London, Conn; Wakeman, Ohio; Decatur, Ill., where they were burned in a school yard. In Mitchell, S. D., children established their own store for school supplies, each objectionable comic turned in bringing the pupil a one-cent credit. In New Bedford, Mass., where the swap was well planned by the Public Library 4000 children turned up and 100,000 comics (weighing more than three tons) were turned in. The library ran out of such exchanges as 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, David's Railroad, Caine Mutiny, Black Stallion, and had to give promissory notes for later delivery.

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LEGISLATION ON COMICS. The American Civil Liberties Union has filed with the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency a policy statement that there is a wide variety of opinion as to the relationship between the reading of crime comics and delinquency and that "at this time there has been no showing that the circulation of crime comic books constitutes a clear and present danger... To suppress books in the absence of a clear and present danger, even offensive comic books, is in violation of the First Amendment. And the weakening of the First Amendment can lead to the undermining of our free institutions, which we want our children and their children to enjoy and respect."

In place of censorship, the Union recommended parental control over the reading habits of children, continued work by school, religious and community groups to lessen delinquency, additional study of the relation between juvenile delinquency and comic books, and proper invoking of obscenity laws. The Union did not attempt to minimize the problem of juvenile delinquency. Its full statement is to be issued shortly as a pamphlet...

It is impossible here to give more than a spotty sampling of state legislation and proposed legislation concerned with comics:

Governor Theodore McKelden has signed into law a bill prohibiting the sale to anyone under 18 in Maryland of books, pamphlets and magazines which display "violent bloodshed, lust or immorality or which, for a child below the age of 18 years, are obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, indecent or disgusting" (Baltimore, AP, April 29).

A Senate committee has just reported out favorably a similar bill in Ohio (Cleveland Plain Dealer, May 25).

Librarians have been fighting a bill in New Hampshire which would, they say, prohibit the distribution of books dealing with the crucifixion and "Little Red Ridinghood" (Manchester Union Leader, April 8).

An ordinance banning the sale of comic books to persons under 18 now under consideration in Omaha, Neb. includes two special features-- a clear definition of comic books and the limiting descriptive phrase "which, read as a whole, is of an obscene nature."

A similar bill not so carefully phrased has been under consideration by the Illinois state legislature.

In order to forestall the possible passage of a number of bad bills, Minnesota librarians have been supporting a bill drawn up by Professor Robert McClure of the University of Minnesota Law School. The bill provides: 1) prompt action (by interlocutory order) prohibiting the general sale of any obviously pornographic or obscene publication; 2) a district court action to adjudicate the alleged obscenity, with an open hearing and a written opinion by the responsible judge; 3) protection to dealers, druggists and newsstand operators against censorship through coercion, or possible criminal indictment, by bringing action against the publication instead of the retailer (the dealer can then know with assurance what he may or may not sell); 4) responsible judgment on matters of obscenity, by

jurists experienced in the evaluation of evidence, instead of amateurs, volunteer "censors," or local law enforcement officials not specifically trained in such matters...

As we write the Keefauver Committee on Juvenile Delinquency has opened hearings on pornographic material and objectionable comic books in New York City.

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KANSAS EXHIBIT. Much commented upon (and favorably) has been the display of 200 "burned books" at the University of Kansas Library, March 22 to May 11. Leading example of a banned book was a rare first edition of Milton's Areopagitica. Great majority of the prohibited books are volumes recognized today as classics.

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MOTION PICTURE CENSORSHIP. Movie censorship ends in Kansas June 30 when the 38-year old Board of Review goes out of business (N. Y. Times, April 8). Only five states now employ full-time boards for censorship of motion pictures--Ohio, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. In Ohio censorship has been a source of revenue--about \$250,000 a year--to the state educational system; a bill to replace the current statute, exempting newsreels and scientific and educational films and cutting the "take" to \$50,000, is now before the state legislature.

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NEW ENGLAND EDUCATION (see Newsletter III: 3, p. 7). The Connecticut State Board of Education adopted a stiff code of procedure for revoking teaching certificates from Communist and "subversive" teachers several months ago, but after widespread protest, replaced it with what the Hartford Courant (April 15) has called "a harmless code to meet an undemonstrated need."...

Maine teachers are fighting an oath bill (see LOYALTY OATHS in this issue)...

In March several Dartmouth College professors called New Hampshire Attorney General Louis C. Wyman's 14-month investigation of subversion "an encroachment on liberty" at a public hearing in Concord (Claremont Eagle, March 24). The chief purpose of their appearance at the hearing was to present a formal statement of protest from the Dartmouth Chapter of the American Association of University Professors against continuance of the investigation.

Wyman defended his investigation as "fair, carefully confidential and vitally necessary." Later he contended that there was no danger to academic freedom from a Superior Court decision empowering the attorney general to examine the content of school lectures for subversion (Manchester Union Leader, April 13). The right to examine such lectures has been pending in a case before the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

The case is that of Paul M. Sweezy, writer on Marxian

economics, who for three successive years has been asked to give a lecture on the theory of socialism to a class at the University of New Hampshire. Sweezy reputedly testified under oath before the attorney general that he is not and never has been a Communist; that he does not, and never has, believed in or advocated the overthrow of government by force or violence; and that if socialism comes, he wants it to come by peaceable and constitutional means. But asked questions concerning the content of his lecture, he refused to answer. Superior Court ruled that he was in contempt and the case was moved up to the Supreme Court. Five leading professors at Columbia and five at Harvard defended Sweezy in his refusal in a public letter (Washington Post and Times Herald, April 1) contending that within university walls, the government of classroom discussion is "that of scholarship administered jointly by teachers and university officials."

The Massachusetts Supreme Court has ruled that the Legislature cannot force the dismissal of school teachers who invoke the Fifth Amendment (Boston Post, April 14). Any law demanding such dismissal would be unconstitutional, the judges said. College and school authorities, they pointed out, can now dismiss teachers for refusal to testify via the Fifth Amendment, but whether such authorities do so is a matter to be determined in each particular case.

The decision of Boston University to retain one of its instructors, Charles H. Russell, despite his refusal to testify before a Special Commission on Communism was supported in a Boston Herald editorial (April 28).

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OPPENHEIMER IN PLEASANTVILLE. The American Legion's Westchester County Committee on Un-American Activities protested use of a high school auditorium in Pleasantville, N. Y. for presentation of the Ed Murrow-Robert Oppenheimer interview film and of "The Investigator," a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation recording which lampoons Congressional investigations (N. Y. Times, May 23 and 25). Presenting the program was the organization Americans for Democratic Action. The local Board of Education, replying to the protest, said members of the ADA were fine citizens, that the voters had authorized the use of the schools by community organizations, and that censorship was not a duty of the board.

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LOYALTY OATHS. The Newark (N. J.) City Council has voted unanimously to require all city employes to take a loyalty oath and fill out questionnaires on possible past or present "subversive" activities (N. Y. Times, May 24). It also urged "public corporations affiliated with the city" to require their employes to adopt the same requirement. Action came following hearings held by the House Un-American Activities Committee at which three Newark teachers invoked the Fifth Amendment. Among the public corporations affiliated with the city are the Board of Education, the Public Library, and the Newark College of Engineering...

The Virginia Department of Education has set up 30-day teaching contracts, designated specific schools where teachers will work,

and required teachers to swear allegiance to the Constitution of Virginia as well as the U. S. Constitution. The Virginia Teachers Association views these acts as intimidation of teachers and part of a "long series of attempts to evade desegregation and integration of public schools." (Richmond, Va., NNPA, April 26)...

Maine teachers are fighting a teachers oath bill (Bangor News, April 6). Their objection is not to a pledge of allegiance, which they already take, but to being specially singled out. The bill would also forbid teaching "any doctrine, ideal or principle destined to undermine the Constitution"--which could be interpreted as banning the teaching of the facts of Communism, according to a News editorial.

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NEWS SHORTS. Many librarians have been critical of the Ed Murrow "See It Now" show dealing with Mrs. Anne Smart and her drive for censorship in California because they believe it put librarians, particularly school librarians, in a weak light. (The show was put together rather hurriedly.) Laymen reaction, if one can judge, has been sympathetic to the plight of the school librarians...

To make mandatory the exclusion of "filthy" books from the schools, a bill has been introduced into the California legislature requiring school boards "to adopt regulations and set up a procedure for the selection and review of school books and other instructional material."

The Senate Judiciary Committee has authorized a subcommittee to study the Bill of Rights as applied to current conditions and given it a budget of \$50,000 (Washington, U.P., April 25). Senator Thomas Hennings, chairman, said the subcommittee would consider "the right of privacy, freedom of speech and press, unreasonable search and seizure, and such related subjects as wiretapping."...

The four professors at North Dakota Agricultural College suspended by President Fred Hultz appear to constitute a case similar to that of Professor Richardson and President Stout at the University of Nevada (see EDITORIAL). The professors have charged violation of their academic freedom (Fargo, AP, April 9). President Hultz has issued a long statement charging harrassment and undermining of his administration (Minot News, March 29)...

A strong fight is shaping up in California over a bill introduced in the state legislature repealing a legal provision requiring a Superior Court trial for dismissal of unfit and incompetent teachers and substituting the standard procedure outlined in the California Administrative Procedure Act, which now applies to all other public employes (San Francisco Chronicle, May 10). The bill's sponsor is the California School Board Association (formerly the Trustees Association). In opposition is the California Teachers Association...

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