

Academic Freedom Includes Dedication To Truth

What should be the attitude of university administrations and the teaching fraternity as a group toward communist teachers? That has long been a big question in this country, and endless words have been written in an attempt to answer it. An impressive contribution to that literature has now been made by Dr. Frank Munk, professor of political science at Reed College, in an article printed in the Portland Oregonian.

Reed is a small institution in point of numbers but it has a national reputation. Dr. Munk's discussion is made the more significant by the fact that three members of the Reed faculty, cited for alleged Communist party membership, refused to testify before a Velde Committee hearing on constitutional grounds, and one of them has since been suspended by the trustees.

Dr. Munk has more than a theoretical knowledge of dictatorship—a Czechoslovakian by birth, he has lived under both Nazism and Communism. He stands solidly for academic freedom, which means, among other things, the freedom to take an unpopular position. He believes that the congressional investigations are justly subject to criticism.

BUT HE ALSO SAYS: "Is it not true though that many intellectuals are only playing into the hands of congressional investigators by their deliberate blindness to the existence of conspiratorial Communist groups on the campuses of some of our best colleges and universities? . . . Would the investigators have had their field day had the academic profession been more sensitive to infiltration and more cognizant of the threat from the extreme left? Does liberalism always have to be one-eyed—seeing the enemy on the right but not the one on the left?"

Dr. Munk points out that the real question is what degree of academic freedom is possible—whether it should be unlimited

or not—and asks: "Does academic freedom protect teachers who espouse and propagate communism, fascism or any other totalitarian ideology—of which this century probably will see a few more?"

HE CLEARLY THINKS the answer here is No, and he quotes with evident approval from the Harvard University report on Communist professors, which said, in part: "We think membership in the Communist party by a faculty member today, with its usual concomitant of secret domination by the party, goes beyond the realm of his political beliefs and associations. It cuts to the core of his ability to perform his duties with independence of thought and judgment. . . . It is beyond the scope of academic freedom."

Then Dr. Munk explains why the Communist party is fundamentally different from all other political movements extant in this country. Its members act as agents of an unfriendly foreign power. It provides the apparatus for an underground conspiratorial movement which would destroy our system of government and replace it with a dictatorship—a dictatorship which Dr. Munk describes as that "of the oligarchy ruling the Communist party." On top of that, Communists feel no obligation to the truth, which in itself, in his words, is a denial of "the very foundation of academic freedom."

DR. MUNK GOES INTO considerable detail and summons much factual and historical evidence in making his case against Communist teachers, and it is a powerful case indeed. Finally, he believes the solution lies with the teaching fraternity. To quote him once more, "Ultimately academic freedom will only survive if it will be equaled by academic responsibility to the profession itself and to the larger community."



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Many thousands of words have been written about keeping dangerous drivers off the road. It's a marvelous idea, but how can it be made to work?

Time and again one reads accident reports, especially those dealing with DUI, driving under the influence of liquor, where one of the drivers had had his license revoked. The idea of taking a driver's license away from one of these men or women is splendid—as far as it goes. What we need now is some form of hypnosis to make that driver forget how to operate a car. It's been proved that the lack of a license does not prevent a car from driving.

We bow our heads and tip our hats to our postmaster general! What a relief it will be to go to the mailbox and actually find nothing but mail again.

We haven't asked any weary-fouled mail carriers, but we rather imagine they are on the thankful side, too. With the "junk" mail on the slide, they will be saved many miles of hiking up and down steps and from front porches to back porches, not to mention a hedge-podge sheet yearning for the householder to save money.

While none of us greatly appreciate the ice and snow that struck last week, we must admit it gave the kids a break. Those outdoor Christmas trees weren't entirely wasted.

Whether it was just coincidence, or whether the thousands

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

An experience of a lifetime will be available to residents of this area either Saturday or Sunday if they visit the new, 236-bed, \$4½ million Wm. Beaumont Hospital.

Those two days—Jan. 8-9—are open house for the public.

It is perhaps the only opportunity you ever may have to visit the behind-the-scenes area of a modern hospital.

It is so modern, in fact, that past president of the Michigan Medical Assn., Dr. O. O. Beck of Birmingham, recently told Beaumont Board President E. A. Tomlinson: "I don't think there is any hospital like this in the rest of the country."

THOSE WHO MAKE the complete tour of the five-story facility will learn why: There is not a place where stark white is used except in the staff uniforms and the linen. Lavish use is made of pastel colors of blue, pink, green, yellow.

There will be no "regular" visiting hours—times will be determined by the patient's physician. ("We don't want to regiment people," is Tomlinson's explanation.)

Intercommunication system between each patient's room and the head nurse's desk on every floor. ("Saves many steps in learning what is needed," says Tomlinson.)

There will be TV and radio connections in each room.

MOST ROOMS WILL BE doubles, with a few private ones at the end of corridors. Each room has a telephone, and pillow radios.

And many more innovations which will be pointed out to the crowds which attend the opening.

The hospital goes into action Jan. 12, according to administrative officials.

If Arthur Godfrey doesn't revise his personal definition of the terms, he soon is going to wind up with himself as the only one he will have on

his programs who expresses "humility" (?).

Some municipalities put some Christmas decorations around their town halls. Is it possible that next Yuletide the Birmingham city commission will permit City Manager D. C. Egbert to have decorated the lovely pine trees around the front of the Municipal Building?

A recent headline stated: "Britons Stirred by Horror on TV." British TV has no commercials, so the story must have been referring to the program itself.

Th. Comic Magazine Assoc., an organization of comic book publishers, has made public a code of ethics which its members hope will succeed in cleaning up the industry. The code will be administered by former New York municipal court judge Charles F. Murphy. He will have the power to grant or withhold his approval of any comic book.

The idea of an industry policing itself is sound and has worked before. But to succeed it will have to have the support of all publishers.

Comic books have come in for a great deal of criticism, most of it justified. There has been talk about imposing censorship by law.

WHILE THE IDEA of censorship is abhorrent to most Americans, some control over the matter presented for reading by the young will have to be exercised. If the industry does not bring itself into line, it will face the prospect of censorship from without.

Freedom to publish must not mean freedom to corrupt—and that is what some of the comic book publishers have been doing. Let them clean up their mess in a democratic manner, asserting their rightful responsibilities.

The industry will benefit from the clean-up quite as much as will the public.

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Correctly Spoken Words, Nancy

Gov. Williams' wife, Nancy, recently made a statement with which we agree, vigorously . . . indeed, frequently have said about the same thing in this newspaper for some years.

Contending that the November victory of the Democrats in Michigan, in which not only Williams was re-elected, but also Lieut.-Gov. Phil Hart and all the State department heads, Nancy declared: "Our victory has made Michigan, permanently, a two-party state. It means that each party will be forced to put forward its best programs and best candidates. To survive, both will have to come up with positive programs and candidates capable of effecting their programs."

"By forcing Republicans to do that, we

Democrats have rendered a public service, indirectly, over and above our direct services to the people."

YES, MRS. WILLIAMS was quite right in her argument that each major political party will have . . . to come up with positive programs and candidates capable of effecting their programs."

This does not mean, absolutely, that such programs, in the long run, will be beneficial to all the people, or that the candidates, if elected, can bring them into existence. But it does mean that programs and candidates will have to be tailored to the current public thought—and if the public is competent to judge, then all will be well.

China's Population Great Factor

The National Bureau of Statistics in Peiping declared recently that China's population, as of June 30, 1953, was 682,603,417.

If this figure is correct, the Chinese population is even greater than had been expected and is by far the greatest of any country in the world.

Considering the fact that the U.S. population is now estimated at something over 162,000,000, it is not difficult to see the eventual importance of Communist China in world affairs, especially if the economic standard and industrial production of that country can be raised.

These population figures show why so many people have argued of late that Asia

was the key to the control of the world in future years.

THE POPULATION of India, the most populous country after China, is several hundred million below the Chinese today, and then comes Soviet Russia, with over 200,000,000 inhabitants.

The populations of the principal anti-Communist countries is meager in comparison with that of China, Russia and India. The population of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Ireland combined is less than 100,000,000.

The population of West Germany is slightly above 50,000,000. The population of France and Italy is even less.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Michigan's 1955 Legislature is now in session. Although in numbers dominated by the Republicans, the veto of Gov. Williams, Democrat, is a mighty powerful weapon to get some of his own party's ideas enacted into law, or to prevent enactment of Republican notions.

Talking recently to a New Englander, a Harvard graduate, he revealed a humorously critical attitude toward certain mid-west institutions of higher learning. Speaking about the splendid Michigan State College football team of the early past, he smiled: "I understand that most of that team's members weren't selected for their academic abilities. Is it true that they were given specially created studies, like fancy beadwork and Football 1? And that they had to quit doing beadwork because, claimed the coach, some of the boys were wounding their fingers as the crochet needle now and then slipped?"

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So They Say . . .
Dwight D. Eisenhower:
"Any man that has been married as long as I have doesn't underrate the persuasive powers of a lady."

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO—January 6, 1905

A Christmas present came to the home, on Christmas day of Mr. and Mrs. Allie J. Cook, of Southfield. It was just one of the sweetest, dearest presents that ever fell off a Christmas tree and white papa and mama are delighted beyond all measurement. Grandpa Thomas is the proudest of all.

"Mrs. B. Shain of Maple avenue celebrated her—well another birthday anniversary next day after New Year. She had for her guests all her children, and her brother, Mr. Nort T. McHenry and wife. A good time was most heartily enjoyed by all and we trust the good lady will see many more equally as enjoyable.

"Dr. Dan Campbell, wife and daughter, of Alpena, have been home for the holidays, returning after about a week of home visiting. Dr. Dan has caught on at Alpena and in good time is due to be a rich man doing dental doctoring."

"Miss Ethel M. Gravin of Franklin was very pleasantly surprised by a party of about 35 of her young friends on Friday evening, Dec. 30, it being her birthday. Dancing and games were the order of the evening, everybody enjoying them selves until the small hours."

The Higelow homestead was bright, happy and hilarious celebrating New Year's Day. They had for dinner two turkeys and all that goes with them, and to help dispose of all the nibbles and drink they had Mort Leggett and Miss Kate of Drayton Plains and Dr. and Mrs. Neff with baby Mortimer Allen of Pontiac. A big day was spent and fireworks at night ended the festivities.

30 YEARS AGO—January 9, 1925

Bloomfield Township, outside of Birmingham, will pay \$1,500 for village fire protection during 1925. This matter was disposed of Monday night when the township board accepted the village's offer at the above figures. The charges for fire protection during 1924 were \$1,000.

THE OLD TIMER
"Nothing is as easy as it looks, except spending money."

The local oddfellows lodge entertained at a 250 people New Year's day about 4 o'clock in the afternoon and ended after the dance in the evening.

In the Fred Y. Quanton home, on West Maple avenue, the first day of the New Year was the occasion of a family reunion as well as the customary New Year's dinner. Guests included Mr. and Mrs. Bert Blaklee and two sons, Robert and Russell from Ypsilanti, and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Blaklee, of Waterford.

Miss Lydia Mendelsohn, a debutante of the season was the guest of honor at a dinner dance, Tuesday in the Brook Cadillac, Detroit, given by her brother, Gordon Mendelsohn, of Bloomfield Hills.

Probably delayed by the bad weather, the stork as yet had failed to deliver a 1940 baby to a Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills or Bloomfield Township mother yesterday—or at least no birth was reported, and as a result of this quite unavoidable delay, the annual First Baby Contest has been held over another week.

Small tinsel boxes containing a tiny folded paper told of the opening of the 1940 baby contest of the Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Charles William Pratt and was made at a tea Thursday afternoon at Rotunda Inn at Pine Lake.

Mrs. D. A. Green entertained Saturday evening in honor of the birthday anniversary of her husband and also Rice A. Howell. Those attending the party were Mrs. and Mrs. Howell and the Wilford Russells.

Little wonder that Sandra Alice Eggleston seems pleased with herself, for Wednesday marked her first birthday anniversary. Sandra, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Eggleston, formerly of Birmingham, observed the anniversary at the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Staples of Yosemite boulevard.