

The views expressed by columnists and letter-writers on this page do not particularly represent the views of the Daily Nebraskan.

Loss Of Freedom

(The following remarks were made Wednesday by Professor Edgar N. Johnson to the members of History 237.)

Since this is a class for mature students on the History of the Western Tradition, I do not see how we can pass over the attack made upon one of my friends and colleagues, both in the Department of History and the University, and upon one who may also be your friend and teacher.

The history of the Western Tradition, we have said this semester, is the history of democratic freedom. We have looked upon it as the history of a growing religious and intellectual freedom promoted by such historical movements as the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the early history of liberalism and science. We have tried to take as a guiding theme the growth of humanism, a confidence in the capacities of free individuals, under proper circumstances, to create a better world for everybody.

What has happened to our colleague, teacher, and friend is one incident in an increasing number of similar incidents in this country. It is a reminder of how fast democratic freedom is disappearing from our midst, and how meagre is the faith in the trustworthiness and capacity of the individual.

It is a reminder as well of how necessary it is, in the case of an incident such as this, to have some knowledge of and faith in this Western Tradition, and some conviction about humanism, Christian humanism at its best if you please, to form the essence of our trust in our fellow human beings. We have been asked in this bloody twentieth century to destroy millions of young men and old, young women and old, and children, to risk civilization itself, for the sake of something called the Western Tradition, democratic freedom and humanistic values.

Yet some members of an organization composed of those who did much to carry on this struggle, act as if they had never heard of democratic freedom, and certainly not of the dignity and trustworthiness of the individual. These few among those who were called upon to defend the tradition are now actually helping to destroy it.

We are all members of an institution called a university. It is an old institution, going back to medieval centuries when groups of students and teachers united in a self-governing organization to consider what, in the light of new learning from the East, was truth and the meaning of life. The university is one of our most precious institutions, and one of the few where men and women may work together in freedom to discover what the truth is. The university depends upon the friendship and cooperation, and above all upon the mutual trust of teacher and student. Without these it cannot function properly. The relationship between teacher and student moreover is one of the most sacred of all human relationships.

The university is being destroyed in our midst today by such attacks as this one upon Dr. Anderson. We are told that it was a student (or students) who initiated it anonymously.

For any member of the faculty who prefers to trust his students, this is difficult to believe. Under conditions of anonymity we don't know whether it actually was a student or not, or whether we are not being led astray by irresponsible men who want to weaken the proper functioning and destroy the freedom of universities.

If it was a student (or students) I think we should all want to express our contempt for such indecent, unsportsmanlike conduct. At the same time we should want to ask how it is possible, in what is presumed to be a democratic society, for young men and women to have so little moral responsibility as to wish to act as anonymous spies against their fellow men.

I can't believe, in any case, that the student (or students) in question knew they were helping to ruin, not only a professor, but a university, this university, and therewith all universities, as centers of responsible freedom seeking the truth. If I come to my classes every day under conditions of mutual suspicion and distrust, I have to assume that sitting before me there may be one or more little spies, betrayers of a sacred trust, who are taking down what I have to say in order that they can report me on the following day, or months later, to the local McCarthy's and the local super-patriots. Under these circumstances some profes-

sors may close their books, their eyes, their mouths, and minds, and seal up their hearts in order to live at peace. This is the peace that withers and kills. It is the peace that destroys a university.

And how can students come to class to listen to a professor who has been indirectly branded as subversive, and against whom his fellow citizens have begun to point the finger of suspicion, and not be influenced by the intangible currents of suspicion? What will some of them do when he begins to talk about Marx and Lenin, Stalin and Communism? How seriously will they take him when he sings the praises of our democratic society? Will not the weaker among them be tempted not to listen, or to remove themselves from contamination with the tainted teacher?

This incident is highly disturbing for other reasons than that it is destroying our democratic freedom and our university. Some members of an organization which would have us believe that it is patriotic and democratic (and this is what we wish to believe) take up or manipulate an anonymous protest of what we are told is a student (or students) in the University, and without thought for the condemned individual.

I call this cruel irresponsibility on the part of those concerned, whether cynically deliberate or unconscious. This organization could have refused to act upon anonymous charges. If it wished to act upon them it could have come to the University or to the professor himself, Dr. Anderson, who with a generous faith in enlightened opinion, gave many hours of his time last winter for a series of talks to the American Legion.

It could first have read the book itself. Instead, it chose to listen to uninformed persons outside our immediate community who make cynical remarks about increasing membership in the Legion with attacks of this sort, and pick up still unfounded charges against the Institute of Pacific Relations and the Lattimores, made popular by what ought now to be well known as the McCarthy technique, and all this without regard to what it might do to a very splendid teacher, scholar and public citizen. It is hard not to believe that they knew what they were doing.

If these individuals do not know that this kind of conduct is a violation of all that traditional western freedom represents, then their ignorance is a sad commentary upon our whole educational system. If they do know it, it is a blot upon our system of public morality. These are the men who have so much trust in you and men that they seem to wish to determine what textbooks we shall read and teach. These are the men who have so much faith in truth that they do not wish us to listen to the other side. They are also the men who seem to wish to set up anew the conditions under which we may be considered loyal or disloyal.

With this irresponsibility the attack is launched, the investigating committee is appointed, the material goes to the front pages of the local press, and is more important than world news for the local radio. The smear is on. In a few hours, no more than this, the effectiveness of a fine and distinguished member of the faculty, in and out of the classroom can be limited or spoiled. Possibly for only a while. Possibly for good.

Not only is his life made miserable but also that of his wife, and his son. He is the hounded, the suspected man. This is what has happened in all totalitarian societies. What has thus begun with the universities we are told will continue with the clergy. We are building up the hysteria of a totalitarian regime in which no questions can be discussed or dealt with rationally.

Loss of freedom results in tyranny whether of left or right, Communism or some form of Fascism. This freedom is being lost in America today. To stop this development will take all our strength, courage, and faith in democratic freedom and in the dignity and value of the individual. The first place for us to stop it is in the University. I therefore hope that this incident will result in a much closer cooperation between faculty and students to keep ourselves free and responsible. Tomorrow it may be your or me. Let us close ranks. Let us demonstrate in some way to the community, the state, and the nation that we shall resist always the destroyers of freedom, no matter whom.

Letterip

Don't Stop . . .

Dear Editor,
It is pleasing to learn from the Dec. 9 Journal that the Lincoln American Legion is taking an increased interest in the University and that "Lincoln American Legion Commander Mary Ellen Lorton has appointed a three-man committee to investigate a charge that a certain professor in the University of Nebraska uses a certain textbook and 'students can't swallow the stuff.'"

I hope the Legion will not stop with this investigation but will investigate other texts used in the University. Most of the teachers are trying only to present the truth about their subjects and choose texts with this end in mind. If the American Legion can find, through its investigations, that some of the information in the texts is not true, certainly it should point out any falsehoods found in the texts.

Inasmuch as some of the information in the texts used in physics and mathematics courses is questionable, and perhaps even false, it would be well for the Legion to investigate those texts too. As long as the Legion is seeking to point out falsehoods which it may find in textbooks, it should be encouraged.

I would welcome investigation of my Greek text of the "Apology," and hope that the portions of Dean Swift's "Gulliver's Travels" which are printed in the Eighteenth Century English textbook will be investigated. Since parts of the Bible, the Homeric poems, Faust, and Walt Whitman are printed in texts at the University, they are also worthy of investigation.

The Legion has begun its investigation with one book. Let us hope that it does not end there, but that it will critically investigate every text used in the University from agricultural economics to zoology, so that any falsehood in the texts can be brought to light and the truth discovered.

Yours truly,
WILLIAM J. BARNS

'Witch-hunters' . . .

DEAR EDITOR:
I desire to go to bat for my friend, that very fine gentleman and very loyal American, Professor Eugene N. Anderson, who is under attack by a local group of witch-hunters with more broomsticks in their paws than brains in their heads.

If there was ever a man who is absolutely NOT pro-Communist—and who could not be such—it is Gene Anderson. It is with very bad grace that the local Post of the American Legion should attack Professor Anderson or permit him to be attacked through its agency.

For the past year, he has devoted every other Monday evening to giving the local Post a very competent review of world affairs.

He participated, on my invitation, several months ago, in a round-table discussion of world affairs; one of the addresses of this communication was on the subject of "The Far East." This letter was sent to The Lincoln Star, The Journal, Chancellor Gustavson, the Commander of the Lincoln American Legion Post, and The Daily Nebraskan.

Professor Anderson is a practitioner of that enlightened democratic principle which requires that one look at all the evidence, select the true from the false, and endeavor to aid his associates in doing likewise.

Whether or not he ever used or recommended Rosinger's "State of Asia," neither know nor care. It is an important book on Asia and any student of the Far East who overlooked it would be a fool. The same is true of the books by Owen Lattimore who, without any doubt, one of the great authorities on the Far East as well as on Central Asia. The Institute of Pacific Relations, whatever may have been the

UN-AMERICAN PROBE

Indignant Students, Faculty Defend Dr. Anderson Against Legion Charges

By ED DeMAR
Staff Writer

Students and faculty members joining in the rising feeling of indignation, decried American Legion efforts to intimidate Dr. E. N. Anderson.

Although some persons wished to reserve comment pending a clarification of the Legion's stand, campus sympathies were quickly aligned in favor of Dr. Anderson.

Said Wayne White, president of the Student Council, "I feel that the Legion has made a foolish mistake in accusing a man of Prof. Anderson's stature. I think that they have acted hastily and unadvisedly in the matter, and I question the mental ability of the students who reportedly informed Legion authorities about the course."

Asked if the College of Engineering were concerned in the Anderson attack, Dean Green replied, "We are always concerned when people attack an institution or persons without having information."

Pat McNay, Panhellenic president, declared, "All the people I have talked to today agree that the Legion's action is silly. Students in Professor Anderson's class with whom I have spoken do not feel that he was in any way

trying to convert them to Communism."

Continuing, Miss McNay said, "I am myself positive that he was not attempting to inculcate the students with Communist doctrine. I resent such efforts on the part of the Legion to dictate what books should be used in University courses. Such action is an encroachment on academic freedom."

Dean of Teachers College, Frank E. Henzlik, pointed out that "all professors take loyalty oaths." "It is not a sign of intelligence," he stated, "to accept irresponsible statements of outside persons who are not aware of the situation. It is true that professors of economics, history and social science study communism; but what is more important, they TEACH democracy."

Dean Henzlik further pointed out that "we study communism as we study cancer; advocating neither, but learning about it, so that we may evaluate and combat it."

Rocky Yapp, Junior Class president, said, "I know that the University students have all the confidence in the world in Dr. Anderson. I hope that the statements made by various legionnaires are not indicative of the thinking of the entire Legion."

Director of the School of Soc-

ial Work, Frank Z. Glick, commented, "An incident of this kind is regrettable because it is an unfair blow to the reputation of a citizen of the University and of public schools in general. I am not familiar with the book in question, but I do know Professor Eugene Anderson personally, and have the highest respect for him as a scholar and as an American."

Frederick K. Beutel, professor of law and recently elected president of the Nebraska chapter of the American Association of University Professors, declared that "There is no excuse for this kind of sensationalism in attacking anybody connected with the University. It is clear that Professor Anderson is a competent scholar."

"It is equally clear," continued Beutel, "that the men attacking him have no knowledge of Oriental history. If anyone desires to attack the competence of a University professor, the University has the proper machinery which is always available for responsible people."

Concluding, Professor Beutel said, "There is not any indication whatsoever that the University authorities have failed in their duties to supply competent and impartial scholars in the field of social science."

Rented Land

Short Course, Conference Offered By Ag Departments

The big news of the campus for this week is the short course and conference being offered by two Ag departments.

The conference is a "feed and nutrition" conference set for Thursday and Friday. The fee for this conference is \$2.

The conference is a two-day session, the first of which will be devoted to the feed dealers and his responsibility to the feeder. The second day will be devoted to a more technical discussion of the recent developments in animal nutrition and manufacturers' problems.

The feed and nutrition conference is being jointly sponsored by the animal, poultry and dairy husbandry departments; agricultural chemistry; the Midwest Feed Manufacturers' Association; Nebraska Feed Manufacturers' Association and the Nebraska Grain and Feed Dealers Association.

The short course scheduled for December will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday. During this time a farm income tax short course will be held in Animal Husbandry hall. The fee for the short course is \$5.

This purpose of this course is to study and explain the new tax laws to those people who help farmers prepare their tax returns.

Sponsor of the short course is the Ag economic department.

Away from the academic side of the campus and over to the activity side. First, the Union is sponsoring

will put even a McCarthy to shame. I had no idea that the American Legion could stoop so low.

HARRY F. CUNNINGHAM, Colonel, U.S. Army (Intelligence) ref'd, U.S. Legion of Merit, French Legion of Honour and Croix de Guerre w/Palms, Belgian Order of the Lion, etc.

But I am a member of the Institute of Pacific Relations and since the Far East is my field of major interest and concern I should be a fool if I were not a member. In spite of the attacks upon it for the errors of some of its past officials, it is not on any FBI list of pro-Communist, subversive, or suspect organizations.

To attack—even to permit to be attacked—such an American gentleman as Professor Anderson,

Chuck Beam

a card tournament before the Christmas holidays. Pinochle will be played with the start of the tournament set for Wednesday afternoon. The Union general entertainment committee is directing the tournament.

As for the Yuletide programs, many of the organizations are holding their annual parties and the Ag Exec board is sponsoring the all Ag-campus Christmas party Tuesday evening. Ag college choir will present several Christmas carols at the party.

The other Union activity for the week is the weekly movie Saturday evening. This week's movie is "Climb the Highest Mountain."

With the ending of the week for the Union I will also end the week's tour of the campus.

KNUS

- 3:00-3:15 Purple Grotto
- 3:15-3:30 Shake Hands with the World
- 3:30-3:45 Rhythm and Rhyme
- 3:45-4:00 Sports Parade
- 4:00-4:15 4:00 Class
- 4:15-4:30 Songs of the Saddle
- 4:30-4:35 This I Believe
- 4:35-4:50 World of Wax
- 4:50-5:00 News

Straight from Ziegfeld Follies, George Olsen and his orchestra played at the Homecoming Dance in 1947.

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One Chance Remark

One chance remark by a certain Joe Vinardi, chairman of the un-American Activities Committee for the Department of Nebraska American Legion, has accomplished the fantastic, right here at our own University. Vinardi's remark, reportedly taken from what Vinardi was told by R. C. Patterson, state adjutant of the Legion, questioning the loyalty and integrity of a University professor, a textbook and a history course, has cast irreparable aspersions upon the reputation of Eugene Anderson.

In lengthy interviews Wednesday with nearly all persons concerned with the situation, The Nebraskan editors found that all persons now consider the incident "unfortunate." However, a three-man investigating committee appointed by Legion Post No. 3 Commander Maryellen Lorton will meet today or met Wednesday night "to investigate the entire matter." Details of the investigation were not available to Nebraskan personnel late Wednesday.

This writer would like to suggest, particularly to the investigating committee, that it go ahead with the work delegated to it by the Legion Post—although they are not actually the qualified agency to conduct "un-American investigations"—and publicly announce that they have found to be true what students and friends of Dr. Anderson know to be true. That the charges against Dr. Anderson, his book and History 102 are unfounded and wrong.

The damage, typical of the damage without proof caused by the smear and insinuation tactics of the Joe McCarthys of this country, has been done. The details of this incident have been thoroughly provided to out-state people through the press. Many unthinking persons will unconsciously think subversive in reference to the University and leftist in reference to Dr. Anderson. The Legion and its committee may back down—which well they should—but the typical character-assassination of thoughtless individuals has gotten a good start.

The question now comes: What can we do to repair the damage done to Dr. Anderson? What can we do to refute these charges in the eyes of

out-state taxpayers and parents? What can we do to insure ourselves and our University that further actions of this kind will not be tolerated.

It's a difficult question to answer. And frankly, we admit that we don't have the answer. But the Student Council did something Wednesday afternoon which other University organizations might do well to follow. They passed a resolution expressing their support of Dr. Anderson in this matter. They are publicly voicing their faith in Dr. Anderson and their trust in the ability of an individual to sort right from wrong.

Perhaps something that we as individuals can do to combat the fear that an incident like this generates is never to be afraid to voice our opinions on ideas. We must not become afraid of what we'll be called when we say what we think.

And yet we must be doubly careful that we do not judge a man on hearsay, on rumor, on his statements or actions taken out of context. We must be sure to hear the whole story before we pass judgment on any one of our fellow men.

In this way we might alleviate the damage done by one chance remark. And we might be insuring that this sort of thing cannot happen in the future. If we think twice in our actions and judgments, the McCarthys—be they of the American Legion or any other group—might also think before they talk.—E. R.

The Daily Nebraskan

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Associated Collegiate Press
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EDITORIAL STAFF

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