

EDITORIAL PAGE

Modifying Our Rights

"No person . . . shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself."

So states the increasingly unpopular Fifth Amendment.

The statement appears unqualified. But the Atty. Gen. Brownell, State Atty. Gen. Beck and Lancaster County Atty. Wagener believe that the Constitution does not mean what it says.

From their statements supporting wire tapping in cases involving subversive activities.

The Nebraska infers that these three men favor enforcing the Constitution only when enforcement benefits the state.

In other words, with the possible exception of State Attorney General Beck, they believe that wire tapping is wrong. It invades the right of privacy and denies the right of refusal to testify against oneself.

On first glance, drawing the line at this point appears logical—for, the attorneys argue, why should we allow a single provision of the Constitution to protect the very persons who seek to destroy the Constitution.

But this argument denies its own validity by implying that the Constitution cannot defend itself and in fact, by its strict interpretation, may even destroy itself.

What type of Constitution is one that must be revoked every time an attack is launched against it?

Providing exceptions to absolute rights parallels the provision of the constitution of the Weimar Republic which allowed the chancellor to suspend the constitution in case of "an emergency."

Any constitution which cannot be enforced 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, is not worth its salt and must be an imperfect constitution indeed.

While the U.S. Constitution perhaps is not perfect, surely men such as Atty. Gen. Brownell and State Atty. Gen. Beck, who have sworn to uphold the Constitution, have sufficient faith in the document to apply it equally in all cases.

Wire tapping is not the true issue; it simply symbolizes efforts of government officials to amend fundamental rights.

Surely history proves that rights cannot have exceptions. Either they apply to all persons in all occasions, or they eventually apply to no one.

If the attorney general of the United States wants to change the Fifth Amendment, let him do so through constitutional channels.

To amend the Bill of Rights in any other manner is a sneak attack upon the Constitution Brownell has sworn to uphold.

The strength of the Constitution rests upon enforcement of all its provisions, not just those which are convenient.

A Connecticut judge recognized the evil of unfair methods of law enforcement when he dropped the case against a druggist who sold a bottle of gin on Sunday. The "customer" was a state liquor inspector who had made 14 visits to gain the druggist's friendship and confidence.

The court said: "I find as a fact that the evil intent and criminal design to buy this liquor on Sunday originated in the mind of the Government agent. Just because it's difficult to get evidence in these cases is no reason why we should use Russian methods."

The judge's last sentence places wire tapping in its correct category.—K.R.

Winning Wobblers

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday University students missed hearing one of the foremost Christian leaders in the world. Dr. Frank C. Laubach, missionary educator, spoke several times at the Nebraska Youth Conference held in Lincoln last weekend.

Laubach told the Conference that education is the answer to Communism.

Optimistic over the chance of stopping the spread of Communism, Laubach explained that the people of Asia are eager for assistance in raising their standards of living and of literacy—and that whether they turn to Russia or the United States depends on who they think is best able to help them.

And Laubach should know. After all he has taught an estimated 50 million illiterates how to read and has been invited by 56 governments to help them with their literacy problems.

"Three quarters of the people of the world are wobbling between Communism and our way of life," he said. "Our task is to change the wobblers into friends."

After hearing the artillery of the Korean conflict and the shouts concerning expenditures for military defense, Americans may find the voice of a language teacher a strange weapon in the cold war.—K.R.

Margin Notes

Initiation Recipe  
Fraternalities in Washington really do things up brown.

At initiation ceremonies, five new members were stripped and covered with molasses, flour, corn flakes, vinegar and ketchup. When brought before a court on disorderly conduct charges, they were ordered to write 1,000 times in punishment, "I regret exceedingly my deplorable conduct at my fraternity's recent initiation."

Seems like a big waste of molasses, flour, corn flakes, vinegar and ketchup. Also chalk!

Should Ellen Smith Hall Be Razed?

Nebraska's 'Hall Of Ivy' May Be Scrapped

Out-Of-Date

Progress has become the symbol of the University, not only in the academic characteristics of the school but also in the physical plant.

In order to expand in academic fields the University officials have found it necessary to construct additional buildings and to improve those already standing.

Recently plans have been discussed for a new wing on Teachers College which would ultimately cause the razing of Ellen Smith Hall and replace it by a new building symmetrical with Social Science Building.

Whether tradition should bow to progress seems to be the question at hand. The razing of Ellen Smith Hall would in some people's estimation destroy a Nebraska tradition. The building has been a part of the campus since 1838 and has survived as new buildings were constructed around it. As it remains, it is out

of place among the new structures.

The building itself is not looked upon as a symbol of tradition by visitors to the University campus. It is considered bad taste to leave such an out-of-date building on a campus that is composed of new modern buildings.

Ellen Smith Hall is a replica of the past, but Nebraskans cannot look to the past. Progress is essential in the expansion of a University and that progress is marked by new buildings which house new and better facilities for the expansion and improvement of academics and administration.—J. H.

NU Tradition

Another University tradition may soon be a thing of the past. Ellen Smith Hall might be torn down to make room for the construction of a modern building to house more classes for Teachers College.

Ellen Smith—a tradition? When the new University student first sees the campus he will disagree. At first glance, the building is an eyesore to the campus.

But to those who have spent many hours of their college life inside Ellen Smith, the building has become more than a structure which has been allowed to stand too long. Ellen Smith is the only building on campus that comes close to the description, "halls of ivy," a traditional term for the old and hallowed buildings of all universities and colleges.

Ellen Smith is a reminder of days gone by—days when the University was still young. An investigating eye can catch a spirit of yesterday—undefinable to anyone except those who have themselves felt it. Romantically, it brings to mind luxurious, spacious rooms where magnificent balls and parties were once held.

Sentimental—yes. But education is more than a desire for progress in the future. It is also an understanding and appreciation of the past. The fact that Ellen Smith is located next to our beautiful library not only shows what advances architecture—and the University—have made, but contrasts it with the beauty of old.

The most valuable things on earth, such as jewels, paintings and music, have little utility value. They are priceless only because they exist as things of a rareness. The same is true of a tradition. No one can measure its value in terms of dollars and cents.

A University of Nebraska without Ellen Smith Hall? It will of course be a better University from the standpoint of facilities for education. But we wouldn't be surprised to see many alums coming back to the old alma mater—only to find something missing.—K. N.

Ike's Ivory Tower

The time has come when President Eisenhower can no longer remain aloof from responsibility for Republican policies.

The pattern to date has been Eisenhower saying one thing and the Republican hierarchy doing another. This has no doubt been a calculated move on the part of politically-seasoned Republican stalwarts.

However, the American people, much as they would like to have a pure, sinless leader to sit upon a level above the mundaneness of professional politics, are beginning to weary of Eisenhower's deliberate non-identification with party policies.

Eisenhower's popularity carried the Republicans into power in 1952; it is understandable that party men would like to see this popularity remain intact. But, for one or both of two reasons this cannot continue.

1. Popular sentiment, while not yet set against the likeable president, is turning from active admiration to querulous questioning.

2. President Eisenhower himself will become disgusted with the activities of his Republican bed-fellows and insist upon standards of conduct acceptable to him. The president has expressed himself on several occasions as being in disagreement with character-assassination and hysterical fear-mongering. To date, The Nebraskan believes the check upon the President has been his sincere desire for party unity.

But there comes a time when a leader is called upon to assert his leadership. That time has come now.

If Eisenhower continues to approve by his silence the tactics of McCarthy, Jenner and Velde, the American citizen will have reason to believe he approves of them. Further, if the president does not positively state otherwise, the man on the street may have good reason to believe that the President may have adopted them.

The Nebraskan finds it hard to imagine that Eisenhower actually can find it within himself to surrender on this point. He has been high-minded to date; he has not resorted to such devices himself.

But, as yet, he has not repudiated them. If he continues to place party unity above what we believe is his sincere personal conviction, no alternative remains but that he has sacrificed his principles for political expediency. This we hope is false. The American people who placed their confidence in him deserve better than to be sidestepped for political gain.

As a soldier Eisenhower knew what guts were—as our President, let us hope he still remembers.—E.D.

English Never Hurts

More fuel has been added to the endless controversy blazing between the advocates of liberal education and those preferring a business education.

Although not conclusive and relatively informal, a poll conducted by Southern Methodist University, Texas, among graduates of 1936 and 1943 should squelch some of the spark in the arguments for business training as being more practical than a general, more abstract background.

Questionnaires returned indicated that liberal arts graduates do as well as, or better in business than graduates of the school of business administration. On top of that, 88 per cent of the alumni classified English, aside from their majors, as the subject that had done them the most good.

"They are stimulated and imaginative and reach a plateau less quickly than the person who is technically trained," Dr. John W. Boyer, SMU English professor in charge of the study, said.

A university "self-study" also indicated that high school students entering SMU with three years of English didn't do nearly as well as those with four. It revealed that SMU students are strong in composition and literature but weak in vocabulary.

As a result, SMU intends to inaugurate a new program in 1956 which will require four years of English as a basic requirement.

SMU is only one university, but fairly representative of universities throughout the country. Perhaps the increasing trend toward more business training will receive a setback; or perhaps educators will find more evidence to swing the debate back the other way.

At any rate, even Biz Ad enthusiasts will have to admit a little English never hurt anyone.—M.H.

Little Man On Campus . . . By Bibler



"Oh, I wouldn't worry too much about passing, Miss Freeman—as long as I'm grading on th' curve."

Letterip  
Innocents Name Standards

Dear Editor:  
As this semester nears its close, the bustle of college life grows more intense. The Innocents Society wishes to urge the undergrads especially to recognize the importance of scholarship in their educational process and to realize that good scholarship is the foundation for making a real contribution of service and leadership to our University.

In the selection of new members for 1954-55, the Innocents Society can consider only those men who earn at least a 5.5 weighted average. Thus a balance between scholarship and extra-curricular activity participation should be maintained. Participation in both can be worthwhile and fun.

Best wishes and lots of luck for the remainder of the school year.

THE INNOCENTS SOCIETY  
1943-54

Down South

Newspaper Threatened On Discrimination Stand

(The following editorial is reprinted from The Syracuse Daily Orange, student publication of Syracuse University.)

The hazy picture of discrimination in the South flashed into sharp focus last week when a student newspaper in the state of Georgia was threatened with the loss of university subsidy if it continued to print editorials opposing segregation.

The Red and Black, 60-year-old student newspaper at the University of Georgia, has been taken to task for writing on the race issue at the University. A member of the state Board of Regents has warned the editors that the regents would cut off state funds unless the paper ceased its stand on segregation.

This is not only deplorable as a flagrant infringement of freedom of the press morally, but it presents the educational minds of that state in an early 19th century setting. The race issue in the South is obviously one of inheritance. The Southern mind has not been able to make the radical change from habits ingrained for 300 years. But the main issue here is not the racial one.

The question is: should any paper be threatened with silence merely because it tackles a ticklish question? Is this paper to believe that the editorial policy of the Red and Black will lead to riots and other public disorders? If this is so, Georgia is pictured in an apprehensive state of turmoil.

The state of Georgia is afraid . . . afraid to be linked in any way, it seems, with a move toward the inevitable; the eventual elimination of racial lines. This may take a decade or a century . . . but it is apparent that this or any other reform will never take place if the public is not informed. And the Press is one of the key mediums of this information.

Sympathy is due for the Red and Black, but an even more sympathetic note is extended to the Regents in Georgia. Their thoughts are trapped in antiquity.

At Texas University the Pan-hellenic council placed a social sorority on probation for making derogatory remarks about other sororities, and oral pledging during rush week. All social privileges of the 1953-54 term have been taken away. This includes formal, house parties, open houses, and entering varsity carnivals. No fraternity will be allowed to entertain them.

The Student Speaking

All That Glitters

I Was A Communist For The University Police

By HANK GIBSON

Now it can be told. Another glorious chapter in the triumphant history of the University Police has been completed. And I had the opportunity to contribute in this; another job well done.

But let me start at the beginning. As most of you who drive know, illegal parking on campus (I.P.O.C.) is now a fineable offense. While this is disagreeable to some of the less conscientious parkers, it is, nonetheless, basically a good plan.

That is, it is a good plan so long as the money thus acquired by the school is put to a good purpose. "Oh, pshaw," you may say, "surely you are not intimating that there is graft and corruption on Our Campus."

And that is what I would have said the day I was called into the office of J. Edgar Burrow, head of our ever-alert protective organization. "Sit down, No. 168," Burrow instructed. "We're finally going to use you. All these months that you've been seeing 'Limelight,' attending modern history courses and picketing the American Legion building are about to pay off."

"What's up, chief?" I inquired. "Don't call me chief, call me Ed," he chuckled, leading his 38-cal. police special. "Here's the story. We've been collecting fines from rich young college kids now for several months. Our coffers should be filled. But get this."

Here he prodded me in the rib case several times with the submachine gun for emphasis. "We don't have a centavo." (Ed is something of a linguist, but I'd been around. I knew what he meant.)

"This is where you come in," he continued, tapping my head with a blackback and leaving bruises which remain to this day.

"We suspect that the campus subversive element has been retreating that money, how we don't know. It's our job to find out where the money is going and get it back. Is that clear, No. 168?"

"I'm No. 168," I said, visibly hurt.

"Sorry," he apologized, throw-

ing at me a tear gas bomb, which I deftly caught and threw back.

So I was to solve the case of the missing fines. Like Ed, I felt that the money was getting into the hands of the Campus Commies and being used to sponsor a campaign to change the school colors to Scarlet and Scarlet.

I had been a member of the Campus Commies for almost 18 months and had been keeping the University Police informed on all subversive activities. It had been tough and go. I'd come very close to exposure several times, but if I could crack this case I felt sure Ed would let me get out.

There was a meeting that night in the Subversive Activities Room of the Student Union. I decided I'd attempt to learn if the Campus Commies were getting their hands on the money. By casually bringing up the subject of fines and where the money goes, I hoped to cause them to confide in me. I practiced a suave, uninterested manner on the way to the meeting.

I was not going to tip my hand. I had to seem completely unaware of any scheme the Commies might have. So I sauntered up to the first person I saw at the meeting and, in a manner of making light conversation, said, "Say, I was fined by the University Police today. I wonder where the money goes?"

Although I could feel myself twitching, my calm expression belied my inner excitement. "Ah, comrade, if you only but knew," said the person to whom I was talking. And I thought I detected a mysterious note in the otherwise casual remark.

To be continued

University Bulletin Board

TUESDAY  
Corn-Cob Activities Meeting, 5 p.m., West Stadium.  
Kismet Club Meeting—Cancelled.  
Biz-Ad Banquet, 6 p.m., Union, Food Service Lecture, 7 p.m., Love Library Auditorium.  
Hanging of the Greens, 7 p.m., Ellen Smith Hall.

Advertisement for the movie 'Thunder Over the Plains' featuring Randolph Scott and Phyllis Kirk. The ad includes the text 'Dave Porter was a man who had to sleep with his guns on...' and 'THUNDER OVER THE PLAINS' in large letters. It also mentions 'LEX BARKER' and 'WARNER BROS.' and 'WARNER COLOR'.

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Chickles

By CHICK TAYLOR  
Mrs. Jones: "The annual office dinner is next week. What are you going to wear?"  
Mrs. Brown: "My black dress. We're supposed to wear something to match our husband's hair."  
Mrs. Jones: "Oh dear! I don't think I'd better go!"  
Saint Peter: "How did you get here?"  
Al: "Flu."