

editorial
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Freedom on Campus

To say that freedom should be less experimental on the campus than in other areas of American life is to undermine the basic educational idea of a university of scholarship.

Several current university cases point up a contrast in attitudes on this question. At the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa a student editor of the campus newspaper, *The Crimson-White*, has had to sign an oath, as a condition of school attendance, saying that he would "refrain from gratuitous or nongratuitous service with the news media in matters expressly touching on race relations . . . at the university." Thus, on the burning issue of the day, the campus editor must be silent, not allowed to report to the outside world what is happening in his own university.

A similar issue of freedom of expression arises at Brooklyn and Queens Colleges here in New York. Two of the student leaders of last summer's trip to Cuba have been refused permission to speak before student organizations that had invited them. The college administrations have rationalized their decision by citing the Board

of Higher Education's ban against speakers who are under "judicial consideration." The fact that these two students have been indicted by a Federal grand jury should not convict them beforehand—and prevent their voices to be heard, and opposed, on campus.

At the University of Indiana three students who are officers of the local Young Socialist Alliance chapter have been reindicted by a county grand jury under a 1951 state law "to exterminate Communism and Communists and any and all teachings of the same." An earlier indictment was quashed.

The university has refused to take any action against the students. President Elvis J. Stahr showed courage and understanding of the university role when he declared: "We have far too much to lose ultimately if we unleash the forces of suppression under the guise of protecting freedom. . . . Indeed, the wrong kind of hunt for the presumed villain can too easily be more damaging to freedom than the villain himself."

That is the difference between freedom and nonfreedom on campus.

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