

**Anonymous**

Let There Be Light: Motto of the University of California, ca.  
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### LET THERE BE LIGHT

Motto of the University of California

James H. Corley, University comptroller, has succeeded Monroe E. Deutsch, former member of the Department of Classics and later Dean of the College of Letters and Science, as Vice President of the University. Both in its contrast between old and new personnel and in its timing, the Corley appointment carries implications of major importance to the University's academic employees and students.

Essentially, the Corley appointment carries forward two mutually complementary recent trends in higher education: first, on a national scale, that of decreasing representation of educators in university administrations, and second, on the local scene, that of increasing aggressiveness on the part of the University with respect to the loyalty oath.

The dangers of the first trend have been noted by our former Vice President and Provost, Monroe E. Deutsch. Upon the election of General Dwight D. Eisenhower to the Presidency of Columbia University, Dr. Deutsch criticized the choice of an administrator rather than an educator to wield the decisive power in education. Writing in *School and Society* for October 25, 1947, Dr. Deutsch said, "If administrative ability per se is the great desideratum, we should inevitably see suggestions seriously made that the heads of great corporations or utilities be named as college presidents...public officials out of a job may be led to turn avid eyes to the plum of a well-paid presidency. Indeed, there already have been examples of such in this broad land of ours. And how easy it would become to place wraps about academic freedom and not only promote within the faculty but make appointments on the basis of agreement with the president on economic and political issues!"

Clearly, Corley's experience places him among the administrators rather than the educators. Mr. Corley received his Bachelor's degree in Commerce here in 1926, and was successively the University's loan fund clerk, cashier, assistant to the comptroller, comptroller, and legislative representative. No one should be deceived by the title that Mr. Corley has been given, "Vice President in Charge of Business Matters"—the fact remains that the Vice Presidency vacated by Dr. Deutsch, a preeminent scholar and educator, has been filled by Mr. Corley. President Sproul himself is not distinguished as an academician. One might at least have expected that a man appointed to assist him would be better qualified in the field of education.

The Deutsch article continues: "What reason have we to anticipate that men, whose aim has been the winning of primaries and elections, or increasing the earnings of their stockholders, or even defeating the enemy in a series of bloody battles will automatically sympathize with the ideals of a university—complete freedom of research, untrammled freedom of teaching, and the pursuit of truth wherever that may lead? We must be on our guard lest we surrender these precious characteristics of a true university, and make efficiency, and, it may be, conformity, replace them." Rather pointedly, Dr. Deutsch warns, "The present trend will inevitably mean in time the transformation of our universities and colleges into something far removed from such mottoes as Veritas and Let There Be Light."

The trend toward trustee control was formerly explained by the growth in size and complexity of our universities. The present aggressive participation of the administration in the nation-wide hysteria, with its firings and "Loyalty" oaths calls for a less soothing explanation. With more and more students in our nation's colleges it is not enough that men of great wealth control the country's economy and government: they now find it necessary to control education, thoroughly and ruthlessly. For this purpose they place in control men whose allegiance is to business rather than to scholarship. Otherwise, the traditional pursuit of truth may lead students to conclusions critical of the financier's regime.

Certainly, here at California our latest appointee has made clear his role. To many legislators in Sacramento. James H. Corley, the University's lobbyist, is "Mr. Loyalty Oath". It was Mr. Corley who obligingly attended Tonney Committee hearings to provide the refrain, "No, Senator Tenney, that student does not represent the University in any way. I am the only representative of the University of California present."

When, despite Corley's helpful cooperation, the Tenney Bills were dead, the administration carried forward the attack on academic freedom in its own way. The administration used its corporate status, free of the weak safeguards which hedge the legislature. The administrative moves were well shrouded at their inception: by now, the pattern is clear. Two major developments have shown us the course the regents have chosen: their utter disregard for the recommendations of the Academic Senate and the recent dismissal of Teaching Assistant Irving David Fox. Obviously the administration and regents are seeking to subjugate the faculty and compel the university to train conformists rather than thinkers.

Certainly, we cannot allow the trend described above to continue. We note that the position of Provost, also formerly held by Dr. Deutsch, is still unfilled. The members of the Academic Senate must insist that a man recommended by them be named Provost, and that the appointment be made immediately. Such action is incumbent upon the Faculty, for only in this way can we hope to obtain, in such an important position, a person dedicated to the motto of the University: Lot There Be Light.

Written and issued by the Theodore Dreiser Club  
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