

**Student Lobby Against the Tenney Bills**

Letter to Dear Sir from the Student Lobby Against the Tenney Bills,  
June 6, 1949  
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### STUDENT LOBBY AGAINST THE TENNEY BILLS

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

June 6, 1949

Dear Sir

On Monday, the 23rd of May, 125 students from the University of California sat in the State Senate Gallery and saw Tenney Bill (S.B.) 130 pass, with scant debate and only four dissenting votes. As students, we were frightened by the passivity of the majority of the senators toward a bill which distorts the fundamental aim of education. Hearing Senator Tenney's attacks on education gave real meaning to Assemblyman Vernon Kilpatrick's statement: "The Tenney bills, if enacted, would go a long way in the creation of a police state like unto the Hitler regime in Germany."

Six of the eleven Tenney bills have passed the Senate, and are to be acted upon in the Assembly during the next three weeks. In our contacts with forty assemblymen, we found thirteen opposed and the rest either non-committal or in favor of the bills. Many legislators told us that they were anxious to hear from their constituents, especially educators, and that their decisions would be determined by these expressed opinions.

The San Francisco Board of Education, President Eisenhower of Columbia University, President Hutchins of the University of Chicago, and numerous others have voiced their opposition to legislative attempts to curtail objective teaching. The immediate need is to focus opposition by educators on our State Assembly.

The Tenney Bills can be defeated. The votes of the majority of the assemblymen will be strongly influenced by the response of their constituents. For this reason, the undersigned students are sending this letter to 1,000 University of California faculty members. We urge you, as a citizen with a particular stake in academic freedom, to write your assemblyman today, and ask your associates to do likewise.

Encl: Copy Tenney Bill (S.B.) 130

Sincerely yours

MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT LOBBY

Stew Bryant

Jack Cook

Bob Drake

Jim Goodwin

Roberta Hirsch

Nola Hanson

Leon Litwak

Bob Spencer

Sid Topal