

Neylan, John Francis, 1885-1960

Letter to Charles Richardson from John Francis Neylan, July 25, 1950

Part of John Francis Neylan papers, BANC MSS C-B 881
BANC MSS C-B 881 Box 178 Folder: 1950 Loyalty Oath

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Letter to Charles Richardson from John Francis Neylan, July 25, 1950

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Mr. Charles Richardson, Jr.

Post Office Box 2052

Carmel, California.

Dear Mr. Richardson:

You were most kind in writing me yours of July 24th.

The independent Regents are having an extremely tough time because as individuals we have no means of rousing the public, while, on the other hand, the pressure groups have the assistance of the President's office and even the prestige of the Governor.

Like yourself, I am mystified as to why citizens serving in an honorary capacity should have to carry the burden of this fight. The only explanation is the reluctance of these men in public positions to incur the wrath of the radicals and the unpleasantness of being smeared.

Another unfortunate feature is that have succeeded in confusing the issue in the public mind.

On March 22nd our great Faculty voted in a majority of 80% to exclude Communists from the Faculty. In doing so, they repudiated the policy of the American Association of University Professors.

On the same date they requested the Board of Regents to abolish the Loyalty Oath which had been suggested by President Sproul and the Academic Senate and to adopt in lieu thereof an anti-Communist statement on the individual contract.

On April 21st the Board of Regents adopted the Alumni Plan which was substantively the plan requested by the Faculty.

98½ of the Faculty have complied.

On June 23rd, on the motion of President Sproul, and with the support of Governor Warren, we voted to expel 157 minor members of the Faculty who had not signed.

These young men did not have membership in the Academic

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Senate.

On July 21st, on the motion of President Sproul, which was supported by Governor Warren, the Board voted to retain 39 men who also refused to sign but who went through the form of telling the Committee of the Academic Senate that they were not Communists.

Both groups claim to stand on the principle that the inquiry invaded their rights and their academic freedom.

Frankly, it seems to me that the 157 were more consistent than the 39, but they were not in a position to threaten us.

It is a melancholy record. We hope to reverse it.

Again, thank you.

JFN:Mc-

Sincerely