

O'Gorman, John Michael
Letter to John Francis Neylan, ca. June 26, 1950: Banc Mss 881,
Box 177: 1950 #3 Loyalty Oath
Part of John Francis Neylan papers, BANC MSS C-B 881

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[Letter]

California Institute of Technology
Gates and Crellin Laboratories of Chemistry
Pasadena 4
Regent John Francis Neylan
Dear Sir:

I am one of the non-signers of the non-communist contract and I attended the Regents' meeting at UCLA last Friday. I had never seen you before, and in contrast to the horrible things I had heard about you, I was struck by your evident sincerity and also by your puzzlement over the fact that professors who were members of the armed forces and who had been cleared by the F.B.I. for top secret documents could still find themselves unable, in good conscience, to sign the contract.

I most earnestly believe that there are good, sound, American reasons for such an attitude that that you would understand them if there were explained to you. It may be excessively naïve of me to propose such a thing, but I would like a chance to explain them to you face to face. My summer appointment here at Caltech would allow me to take a couple days off for this purpose, and I hope I could convince you. Maybe you would convince me that I was wrong - I am no fanatic and had a hard time coming to what seemed at the time the best decision for me.

Sincerely yours, believe me
John Michael O'Gorman
asst prof of chemistry, Santa Barbara College