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## Letter to Robert G. Sproul from Robert B. Brode, April 23, 1954

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President Robert G. Sproul  
250 Administration Building  
Campus

Dear President Sproul:

When the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom meets with you it would like to discuss the procedures used on this campus in dealing with Faculty members accused or suspected of communist activity. We are aware of the material published in the magazine "Nation" and we have been asked for information about this matter by a number of members of the Senate. It is our opinion that we should ascertain the facts and report on these to the Senate.

It is my opinion that the good name of the University is damaged by those who, in ignorance of the duties and activities of University employees, imagine them to be engaged in activities in which they are in fact not engaged. An extreme of these uninformed, imaginary conceptions is as follows:

"Mr. Wadman seeks out information about Faculty, students and employees through direct campus observation and through contact with agencies. Also, these agencies may directly alert Mr. Wadman to get information for them on Faculty and students. When Mr. Wadman thinks he has sufficient material for a case, he then informs the administration."

It is the lack of information regarding the University's procedures and those of its employees that in some measure gives rise to such imaginary ideas.

We are aware that Chancellor Kerr has been named as the contact man between this University and the Burns Committee of the State Legislature. There seems to be, however, some discrepancy in the reports of the hearings of the U.S. Senate Committee (Jenner) as to the character of the contact man on the Berkeley campus, and the success of the "California Plan". When information from other sources than the Burns Committee is brought to the administration, it presumably comes through other channels than the Chancellor. When a member of the administrative staff of the University has been authorized to receive or give information to some other agency, he becomes by that authorization a "contact man" between the University and that agency. It may be assumed that there are people acting as contact men in many activities and for many purposes for the University in addition to the definitely announced activities of Chancellor Kerr and the Burns Committee. In our inquiries the title contact man is not restricted to Chancellor Kerr, but applies to any person authorized to receive or give information on behalf of the University.

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I believe that the Committee would like to know something about the following matters:

1. Does the President contact security agencies directly, or is this done through a contact man?
2. Does the Chancellor contact security agencies directly, or is this done through a contact man?
3. If a contact man is used, is the responsible administrative officer fully informed regarding information

- received and given, or is the contact sometimes oral or without formal record?
4. Does the administration receive unevaluated reports, and what use is made of such reports?
  5. Are reports supplied to the University on the initiative of the security agency?
  6. Does Mr. Wadman act as a contact man to some agencies and investigating committees?
  7. Is all information concerning Berkeley Faculty members transmitted to the Chancellor and processed by him?

I am sorry that your busy schedule and the travels of members of this Committee have postponed our getting together. I trust, however, that a meeting can be arranged in the first week of May.

Sincerely yours  
Robert B. Brode  
Chairman  
Committee on Academic Freedom  
RBB:lfh