



Statement for the Press by Paul A. Dodd, March 8, 1950

STATEMENT FOR THE PRESS

March 8, 1950

by

Paul A. Dodd, Dean of the College of Letters and Science and Professor of Economics
Chairman of the Steering Committee

I am vigorously opposed to the "special oath" for the following reasons:

1. The "special oath" infringes upon academic freedom, a principle zealously guarded by all great American universities.
2. Furthermore, it implies distrust and suspicion with respect to the faculty's ability to maintain a staff of colleagues whose loyalty and devotion have been both tested and unwavering over the years.
3. Announcement of its enforcement, on pain of dismissal and without a hearing even for those with academic tenure, has created profound resentment among members of the faculty of the University and among those of other institutions of higher learning everywhere throughout the freedom-loving world.
4. Irreparable damage will be done the University, and the problems of recruiting and maintaining a first-rate staff of scholars and teachers will become intolerable if the "special oath" requirement is not withdrawn.
5. This latest action may well be used as an entering wedge in the hands of the Regents to encroach upon functions which, within the framework of the University, for many years have been accepted as rightfully and wisely belonging to the faculty and not to the Regents.

All these threats and difficulties can be overcome if the Regents will rescind their "special oath" requirements and return to the regular state oath.