Smiley, Charles H
Letter to John Francis Neylan from Charles H. Smiley, December 7, 1950
Part of John Francis Neylan papers, BANC MSS C-B 881
BANC MSS C-B 881, Box 178, Folder: 1950-1 Loyalty Oath File 4

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Letter to John Francis Neylan from Charles H. Smiley, December 7, 1950

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BROWN UNIVERSITY
PROVIDENCE 12, RHODE ISLAND
December 7, 1950
Mr. John F. Neylan
1 Montgomery Street
San Francisco 4, California
My dear Sir:

As a loyal alumnus of the University of California I have been torn between worry lest the University be permanently damaged by the Loyalty Oath controversy and confidence that the regents and the faculty would find a common ground and settle the difficulties before permanent damage was done.

As a professor, it seemed to me that the regents were flattering the professors of the University of California by assuming that their opinions carry a greater weight with the students than they really do. My experience has been that students generally are not seriously misled by a professor who is one-sided in his approach to a subject. Instead they often build up a resistance to propaganda so that the professor's net effect is in the opposite direction to that which he wishes.

I would guess offhand that the few professors who are making most of the trouble at the University would cause less trouble as members of the staff than they would outside, if fired.

It is my understanding that members of the University faculty will be required to take a new oath prescribed by the legislature of the state. This should relieve the burden of the regents; members of the state legislature with their voice on the finances of the University should be able to defend their point of view.

I have no particular action to urge. I would hope that the regents would do everything in their power to preserve the immeasurable values of the great University of California for the young men of the future.

Sincerely yours
Charles H. Smiley
chs/ej