



Letter to Walter D. Fisher from Robert Gordon Sproul, July 13, 1949

[Letter, July 13, 1949]

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Robert Gordon Sproul
President of the University
July 13, 1949
Professor Walter D. Fisher
134 Behrens Street
El Cerrito, California
Dear Professor Fisher:

The Regents of the University of California on June 24, 1949, after consultation and agreement between the President of the University and the Advisory Committees of the Two Sections of the Academic Senate, approved the following resolution:

"At its birth the University of California was dedicated to the search for truth and its full exposition.

"The primary obligation of The Regents of the University of California has been to stand steadfastly for that freedom of the human mind and spirit which has enabled the assemblage of distinguished scholars constituting the faculty to continue to pursue these objectives.

"The Regents gladly share with the faculty the responsibility to keep the University free from those who would destroy its freedom.

"Today this freedom is menaced on a world-wide basis by the Communist Party through its determination by fraud, or otherwise, to establish control by the State over the thoughts, and the expression of thoughts, by the individual.

"Therefore, the Regents reaffirm their declaration of policy, adopted in 1940, that membership in the Communist Party is incompatible with objective teaching and with the search for truth.

"Pursuant to this policy the Regents direct that no member of the Communist Party shall be employed by the University.

"Any person who is or shall become a member of the Communist Party, or who otherwise undertakes obligations or advocates doctrines inconsistent with this policy, shall, after the facts have been established by the University Administration, and after the traditional consultation with the Committee on Privilege and Tenure of the Academic Senate in cases of members of the faculty, be deemed to have severed his connection with the University.

"To implement the above-stated policy, the Regents direct, also, that the following oath be subscribed to by all members of the faculty, employees and administration of the University:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office according to the best of my ability; that I am not a member of the Communist Party, or under any oath, or a party to any agreement, or

under any commitment that is in conflict with my obligations under this oath."

May I, therefore, request that you detach, sign, and mail to me the form of oath on the bottom half of this sheet after your signature has been witnessed by a notary, or other official authorized to administer oaths? Notarial service is available on various campuses of the University (Berkeley, Davis, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara). If it is necessary for you to pay a notary fee, please have this fact noted on the form, and you will be reimbursed.

It is hoped that the form, with due signature, will be returned before October 1.

Yours, Sincerely
Robert G. Sproul

[Form of Oath]

Detach and mail to President Robert G. Sproul, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office according to the best of my ability; that I am not a member of the Communist Party, or under any oath, or a party to any agreement, or under any commitment that is in conflict with my obligations under this oath.

Walter D. Fisher

Sworn to before me this _____ day
of _____

Notary