

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

*Ewers, Joseph E.*

October 6, 1950

TO Dean Fred H. Turner  
152 Administration (W)

FROM Joseph E. Ewers

SUBJECT: University recognition of subversive, seditious and un-American organizations.

State of Illinois House Bill #711 (Clabaugh Bill), approved August 8,  
1947 states:

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in  
the General Assembly:

"SECTION 1. No trustee, official, instructor, or other employee of  
the University of Illinois shall extend to any subversive, seditious, and un-  
American organization, or to its representatives, the use of any facilities of  
the University for the purpose of carrying on, advertising or publicizing the  
activities of such organization."

In Newsweek Magazine, June 9, 1947, John Edgar Hoover, Director of  
the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice pre-  
sented an article on "How To Fight Communism." Among other things he said:

"There are two levels in the Communist organization. One level is  
'above ground' and its espousers are out in the open. They employ high sounding,  
deceitful phrases, and pin the label of 'Red-baiter,' 'reactionary' or 'Hitlerite'  
on all who reject their doctrines. Anyone who opposes the Soviet Union is a  
'Fascist', 'imperialist', or 'monopoly capitalist ..... They conceal

To: Dean Turner

- 2 -

October 6, 1950

their real designs by attaching themselves to progressive causes, to the cause of labor, social security and education....."

"The known, card-carrying Communist is not our sole menace. The individual whose name does not appear on party rolls but who does the party's dirty work, who acts as an apologist for the party and who rises in its defense and spearheads its campaigns in numerous fronts, is a greater menace. These are the 'Communist sympathizers', 'Fellow Travelers' and 'Communist stooges'. To prove their evil intent is at times difficult but they brand themselves by shifting and turning as the party line changes to meet new situations. Whether they be innocent, gullible, or wilful makes little difference, because they favor the cause of Communism and weaken our American democracy."

On March 26, 1947, in a statement before the Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., Mr. Hoover said:

".....For the most part, front organizations assumed the character of either a mass or membership organization or a paper organization. Both solicited and used names of prominent persons. Literally hundreds of groups and organizations have either been infiltrated or organized primarily to accomplish the purpose of promoting the interests of the Soviet Union in the United States, the promotion of Soviet war and peace aims, the exploitation of Negroes in the United States, work among foreign language groups, and to secure the favorable viewpoint toward Communists in domestic, political, social and economic issues."

"The first requisite for a front organization is an idealistic sounding title. Hundreds of such organizations have come into being and have gone out of existence when their true purposes have become known or exposed while others with high sounding names are continually springing up."

To: Dean Turner

- 3 -

October 6, 1950

On August 8, 1950 the Illinois Legislature passed House Bill No. 711 quoted previously: This Bill was directed at the Illinois chapter of the American Youth for Democracy on the Urbana campus. The American Youth for Democracy by Executive Order #9835 [Federal], and by letter of November 24, 1947 has been declared by the Attorney General of the United States to be a Communist organization.

On August 14, 1947, the University of Illinois withdrew recognition of the American Youth for Democracy, as being a subversive organization.

On May 3, 1948 a group of University of Illinois students petitioned to the Dean of Students for recognition of an organization to be known as "Students For Wallace." The leaders of this group were, in part, the same as those in the now defunct American Youth for Democracy. In its petition for recognition, the group stated:

"If ..... they can function more effectively with wider scope under another name, the organization will be disbanded and reorganized in another form, adopting a name suitable to their change in function."

Because of its apparent temporary nature, official University recognition was not accorded this group.

On August 17, 1948 a group of students petitioned the Dean of Students for recognition of an organization to be known as the Young Progressives of America, University of Illinois Chapter. In the petition it was stated:

"The Young Progressives of America is an independent organization which works to fulfill the democratic aspirations of young people, regardless of race, sex, color or creed. It supports the Progressive Party and rallies young people to its program of peace, freedom and abundance."

To: Dean Turner

- 4 -

October 6, 1950

On December 14, 1948 it was announced by a sponsor of the Y.P.A. that the organization was seeking a meeting with the Governor of Illinois to urge repeal of the Act outlawing the A.Y.D. at the University of Illinois.

On February 14, 1949 the Y.P.A. was granted University recognition by the Committee on Student Affairs and the Dean of Students, as an undergraduate organization. [See Section 1, Article 3. "Membership"]. "All undergraduate students in good standing are eligible to become members of this organization."

On the evening of June 25, 1950, a group of students met in the Main Lounge of the Illini Union Building and were addressed by a man who had earlier registered as a guest of the Union as Mr. Dirk J. Struik, 52 Glendale Road, Belmont, 78, Massachusetts, later identified as a Professor of Mathematics at the Massachusetts' Institute of Technology. Immediately following the adjournment of this gathering, Peace petitions were circulated by members of the group who requested signatures from persons in the Union Building. This petition stated:

"YOU WANT PEACE"

"WORLD PEACE APPEAL"

"WE demand the unconditional prohibition of the Atomic weapon as an instrument of aggression and mass extermination of human beings.

"WE call for the institution of strict international control to enforce this.

"WE will regard as guilty War crimes against humanity that Government which first uses the Atomic weapon against any Country.

"WE call upon all people of good will to sign this Appeal."

"World Peace Appeal, adopted by the Permanent International Committee, World Peace Congress representing more than 900,000,000 people, issued to all governments, organizations and to all people throughout the World."

To: Dean Turner

- 5 -

October 6, 1950

University attention to the nature, sponsorship and purpose of this petition was first called by a newspaper article in the Indianapolis Star, on June 25, 1950, in an article reported by Robert W. Kellum, Staff Writer. In his article reported from Bloomington, Indiana, he stated:

"A 'Signatures for World Peace', campaign has been mapped by Communists in the United States to start July 4--watch for it. Don't sign the petitions!

"This warning was hurled to Indiana yesterday at conclusion of the first State Department-Citizen's conference ever held in the Hoosier state.

"Asking that direct quotation not be made, a high State Department officer asserted at the final conference luncheon in the Indiana University Union Building that the Soviet will not openly sponsor the move.

"It will come through instigation by Russian Communists, however, and will be a part of their World-wide drive to put blame for any future military-tinged actions on the United States. No further details were given, but there will be much more from Washington later, the conferees were told.

"A time at or near Independence Day has been chosen--again as a phase of the Soviet propaganda, it was emphasized."

Since that time the free press of the entire World has stated positively that that Peace petition, in all of its forms of presentation, has been instigated and directed by the United States of Soviet Russia as a propaganda move, subversive in nature. The State Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Committee on Un-American Activities and leading Americans have made the same assertions.

On June 26, 1950, the Y.P.A. held an authorized meeting in Room 209, Illini Union, following which, persons who attended the meeting, solicited signatures to the Peace petition in and around the Union Building.

On the night of July 1, 1950, the Peace petition was circulated for signatures among R.O.T.C. cadets attending a union-sponsored dance at the Union Building.

To: Dean Turner

- 6 -

October 6, 1950

On July 4, 1950, members of the Y.P.A. solicited signatures to the Peace petition at Crystal Lake Park, Urbana, Illinois. On July 17, 1950, the Y.P.A. held a regular authorized meeting in Room 209, Illini Union, from 9-11 p.m. At this meeting it was voted six to two that the Y.P.A. should sponsor a community peace committee which should encompass other campus and community groups. A temporary Chairman of the Peace Committee was appointed.

It was also voted at this meeting that the Illini Chapter of the Y.P.A. should continue the Illinois State policy of Y.P.A. for (1) non-intervention in the Korean War, (2) United States' withdrawal of troops from Korea, (3) recognition of Red China, and (4) acceptance of ten "new countries" into the United Nations.

On August 3, at a meeting of the Peace Committee, the following platform was adopted: (1) immediate recognition of Communist China by the United Nations; (2) outlawing of atomic weapons and general disarmament of all nations under United Nations' inspection and supervision; (3) that the group attempt to influence foreign policy of the United States; and (4) immediate discussion and negotiation for cessation of hostilities in Korea by the United Nations Security Council. This meeting was presided over and dominated by members of the Y.P.A.

On August 7, 1950, at a regular meeting in the Illini Union, the Y.P.A. voted to continue distribution of the Stockholm Peace Petition, despite heavy criticism of it as being Communist-inspired. At this meeting an officer of the Y.P.A. stated that the organization had already endorsed the Petition, and even in the presence of some criticism of it within certain circles, he saw no reason for dropping it.

To: Dean Turner

- 7 -

October 6, 1950

The Daily Worker, the official Communist propaganda organ in the United States, has continually made the above points its platform through direct statements, editorials, and coloration of newstories. It has, also, as have recognized Communist party leaders in this Country, propagandized and fostered the Peace Petition. The local chapter of the Y.P.A. has continued to follow the dictated policies of Communist Russia, regardless of the official pronouncements of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the State Department.

It is a conclusion of this reporter, Joseph E. Ewers, Security Officer, based on all evidence and reports given, that the activities of the Y.P.A., Illini Chapter, are subversive and, therefore, under the laws of the State of Illinois, should not be given haven or recognition by the University of Illinois.

CC: Mr. J. E. Cribbet, Chairman, Committee on Student Affairs  
President Stoddard  
Mr. C. R. Griffith, Provost

  
Joseph E. Ewers