

Letters to the Editor

A Re-examination

Dear Sir:

In the recent past, attention has been drawn to the appearance of two Rutgers professors before the Holy Office of the Congressional committee investigating subversive influence in American education.

Certain segments of the press have taken this opportunity to attack public financial aid to Rutgers and have demanded the suspension of the two men as a condition to its continuance. The present atmosphere makes a calm appraisal difficult. Let us, however, examine the facts:

1. Both of these men have a good record, in Heimlich's case an outstanding one, of dedicated teaching service to the University.

2. At no time have these men been accused of teaching, advocating, or in any way presenting anything at all "subversive" in their respective classrooms.

3. These men have not been accused of any illegal or subversive act anywhere or at any time. No charges have been filed against them by our vigilant Department of Justice. Both have denied they are Communists. Heimlich has never been a Communist. The Congressional committee itself has not alleged this.

4. Acting on some information, they summoned Heimlich before them. When questioned as to what this information consisted of, the committee itself refused to answer. Mr. Heimlich, faced with these invisible accusers and accusations, invoked the fifth amendment.

It is rare, as well as an inspiring sight in these times, to observe a man standing on moral principle.

More common is the hysterical and sinister disregard of the rights of due process of law and presumption of innocence until proved guilty.

Mr. Heimlich and Mr. Finley are being persecuted, not prosecuted, for invoking the protection guaranteed every American by the Bill of Rights.

There are strong outside pressures on the University to suspend these men from the faculty. It would seem that some counter-pressure from inside may well be necessary to forestall a disgraceful capitulation to the enemies of scholastic freedom and civil liberty.

It is for this reason that I urge upon any interested individual or group, the necessity of immediate communication to Dr. Jones and the University reaffirming the principles of equity and justice and demanding the retention of these two more victims of emotionalism and newspaper sensationalism.

Gerard Mandel '78