

As revised July 6, 1949

STATEMENT PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

By Leo Szilard

At this time many of the universities of the United States are exposed to pressures which make it increasingly difficult for them to employ or to retain as members of their faculty scientists and scholars who are in one way or another identified in the public mind with Communist activities. The Council views this pressure with grave concern and considers it of importance that it be steadfastly resisted by our universities.

The major issue involved concerns the maintenance of the intellectual and moral atmosphere essential for the wellbeing of our universities. The Council believes that the universities of the United States have flourished by and large in proportion to the degree to which they have succeeded in making the scholar's or scientist's competence in his chosen field of work the sole guide for deciding on faculty appointments. The word, "competence", is by no means used here in the narrow sense to denote merely the accumulation of technical skills. In the broad sense in which the word, "competence", is used a man lacking in intellectual integrity might lack competence for an academic appointment. Similarly, men who believe themselves to be in possession of the ultimate truth, and who are therefore inclined to be dogmatic, might lack competence in a field of knowledge in which groping for the truth is still the only adequate approach.

The Council does not believe that any hard and fast criteria can be established for judging the competence of an individual but holds that the associations and political beliefs of the individual are not the proper basis for judging his competence.

It is being argued that Communists should be automatically excluded from the faculties of our universities (1) because they lack intellectual integrity, and (2) because they are following dogmas in political, historical and economic theory which are incompatible with free inquiry in these fields.

With reference to this argument, the Council holds:

(1) It might be true that most Communists lack intellectual integrity and this might be said also of the majority of a number of other groups that could be singled out with equal justification. The Council attaches great weight to intellectual integrity in members of our university faculties, but it holds that judging the individual on the basis of evaluating the group to which he belongs is no acceptable substitute for selecting desirable members for our faculties by means of the necessarily painstaking process involved in determining the suitability of the individual.

The Council holds that there is no place for Communist propaganda, or any other kind of propaganda, in our universities and considers the intellectual integrity of the members of the faculty as the best guarantee against the possibility of such propaganda.

(2) It is probably true that Communists tend to follow a rigid set of tenets relating to political, historical, and economic theory. The Council would deem it most unfortunate if followers of these tenets came to dominate the departments of our universities which are concerned with these disciplines. But this danger does not at present exist. At present there is a high degree of diversity in our universities in these faculties, and therefore the faculty membership of a few individual Communists does not represent any appreciable danger to the free inquiry to which our universities must be devoted.



Furthermore, a man who adheres to a rigid set of tenets in political, historical, and economic theory might still have a perfectly open mind in some other field; for instance, physics, chemistry, or biology which may be his field of academic activity. The Council believes that a man's adherence to any set of beliefs which lie outside of his chosen field of work should be regarded as irrelevant when he is being considered for faculty appointment.

It is to be feared that a number of our universities will be unable to resist the increasing pressure and that men will be forced to resign or will be dismissed or will be refused appointment because they have become identified in the public mind with Communist activities. If there should be among these men any who, by virtue of their scientific or scholarly competence and intellectual integrity, would appear to make desirable members of the faculty of the University of Chicago, and if their appointment is recommended by the appropriate departments, the Council will urge the Administration to approve such appointments.



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June 16, 1949

Statement proposed for adoption by the  
Council of the University of Chicago.

By Leo Szilard

At this time many of the universities of the United States are exposed to pressures which make it increasingly difficult for them to employ or to retain as members of their faculty scientists and scholars who are in one way or another identified in the public mind with communist activities. The Council views this pressure with grave concern and considers it of importance that it be steadfastly resisted by our universities.

The major issue involved concerns the maintenance of the intellectual and moral atmosphere at present prevailing at our universities which the Council considers essential for their prosperity. The Council believes that the universities of the United States have flourished by and large in proportion to the degree to which they have succeeded in making the scholar's or scientist's competence in his chosen field of work the sole guide for deciding on faculty appointments. The word, competence, is by no means used here in the narrow sense to denote merely the accumulation of technical skills. In the broad sense in which the word, competence, is used a man lacking in intellectual integrity may lack competence for an academic appointment. Furthermore, men who believe themselves to be in possession of the ultimate truth, and who are, therefore, inclined to be dogmatic may lack competence in a field of knowledge in which groping for the truth is still the only adequate approach.

The Council does not believe that any hard and fast criteria can be established for judging the competence of an individual, but it holds that the individual must not be judged on the basis of his associations or his political activities.

It is being argued that individuals who may be regarded as Communists should be automatically excluded from the faculties of our universities (1) because they lack intellectual integrity, (2) because they are following dogmas in political, historical and economic theory which are incompatible with free inquiry in these fields.



The Council wishes to comment on this argument as follows:

1) It is probably true that the majority of Communists lack intellectual integrity, but this is equally true for the majority of a number of other groups that might be singled out with equal justification.

The Council holds that there is no place for communist propaganda or any other kind of propaganda within our universities, and considers intellectual integrity of the members of the faculty as the best guarantee against the possibility of such propaganda. The Council attaches great weight to ~~the importance of~~ intellectual integrity in members of our university faculties but holds that the painstaking process involved in selecting desirable members for our faculties can not be simplified by judging the individual on the basis of evaluating the groups to which he may belong.

2) It is probably true that Communists tend to follow a rather rigid set of tenets relating to political, historical, and economic theory, and ~~The Council would deplore it were~~ *to deem it most unfortunate if* ~~to~~ become predominant in departments of our universities which are concerned with political, historical, and economic theories. But at the same time the Council holds that, as long as there is a sufficiently high degree of diversity in our universities among those who are inclined to follow the major trends of contemporary theories, faculty membership of a few individual Communists does not represent any appreciable danger to the free inquiry to which our universities must be devoted.

Furthermore, a man who follows some rigid set of tenets in political, historical, and economic theory may still have a perfectly open mind in his chosen field of work which may happen to be in the fields of physics, chemistry, or biology. The Council believes that a man's adherence to any set of beliefs, which lie outside of his chosen field of work, should be regarded as irrelevant when he is being considered for faculty appointment.



It is to be feared that a number of our universities will be unable to resist the increasing pressure and that men will be forced to resign or will be dismissed or will be refused appointment because they have become identified in the public mind with Communist activities. If there should be among these men any, who by virtue of their scientific or scholarly competence and intellectual integrity, would appear to make desirable members of the faculty of the University of Chicago, and if their appointment is recommended by the appropriate departments, the Council will urge the Administration to approve such appointments.

*[Handwritten scribble with asterisks]*

~~The End~~ ' P

The following two sentences might be added to the above statement if so desired by the Council:

"The Council realizes that if any new appointments are made on this basis additional funds might have to be made available for them. In such a contingency the Council might recommend to the members of the faculty of the University of Chicago that they make funds available to the Administration by voluntarily accepting one-half of 1% cut in their salaries."



June 16, 1949

Statement proposed for adoption by the Council of the University of Chicago

By Leo Szilard

At this time many of the universities of the United States are exposed to pressures which make it increasingly difficult for them to employ or to retain as members of their faculty scientists and scholars who are in one way or another identified in the public mind with Communist activities. The Council views this pressure with grave concern and considers it of importance that it be steadfastly resisted by our universities.

in the interest of freedom + the intellectual integrity of the U.S.

The major issue involved concerns the maintenance of the intellectual and moral atmosphere [at present prevailing at our universities which the Council considers] essential for their prosperity. The Council believes that the universities of the United States have flourished by and large in proportion to the degree to which they have succeeded in making the scholar's or scientist's competence in his chosen field of work the sole guide for deciding on faculty appointments. The word, competence, is by no means used here in the narrow sense to denote merely the accumulation of technical skills. In the broad sense in which the word, "competence," is used a man lacking in intellectual integrity <sup>might</sup> lack competence for an academic appointment. Furthermore, men who believe themselves to be in possession of the ultimate truth, and who are, therefore, inclined to be dogmatic <sup>might</sup> lack competence in a field of knowledge in which groping for the truth is still the only adequate approach.

will be a day if our universities...  
[affecting functioning]

Part II

The Council does not believe that any hard and fast criteria can be established for judging the competence of an individual, but ~~it~~ holds ~~that the individual must not be judged on the basis of his associations or his political activities.~~ <sup>Not</sup> ~~are not the proper basis for judging~~ <sup>beliefs</sup> ~~such as~~ <sup>beliefs</sup> It is being argued that ~~individuals who may be regarded as~~ Communists should be automatically excluded from the faculties of our universities (1) because they lack

negative peers



intellectual integrity, and (2) because they are following dogmas in political, historical and economic theory which are incompatible with free inquiry in these fields.

*was ill / few will referance to this argument holds*  
~~The Council wishes to comment on this argument as follows:~~

*may be*  
1) It is probably true that ~~the majority of~~ *most* Communists lack intellectual integrity, ~~but~~ *and* this is equally true for the majority of a number of other groups that might be singled out with equal justification.

The Council holds that there is no place for Communist propaganda or any other kind of propaganda within our universities, and considers intellectual integrity of the members of the faculty as the best guarantee against the possibility of such propaganda. The Council attaches great weight to intellectual integrity in members of our university faculties but holds that the painstaking process involved in selecting desirable members for our faculties can not be simplified by judging the individual on the basis of evaluating the groups to which he may belong. *acceptable* is no substitute for the painstaking

2) It is probably true that Communists tend to follow a ~~rather~~ *rather* rigid set of tenets relating to political, historical, and economic theory. The Council would deem it most unfortunate if followers of these tenets ~~became~~ *came to predominate* in departments of our universities which are concerned with political, historical, and economic theories. ~~But~~ *at the same time* the Council holds that, as long as there is a ~~sufficiently~~ *high* degree of diversity in our universities ~~among~~ *in the faculty* those who are inclined to follow the major trends of contemporary theories, ~~faculty membership~~ *and therefore* of a few individual Communists does not represent any appreciable danger to the free inquiry to which our universities must be devoted.

*addresses two*  
Furthermore, a man who ~~follows a~~ *right* right set of tenets in political, historical, and economic theory ~~may~~ *may* still have a perfectly open mind in his chosen field of ~~work which may happen to be~~ *one of which* in the fields of physics, chemistry, or biology. The Council

\* But this danger does not at present exist.

*may be his fields*  
*concerning activity*

*Expedient*



believes that a man's adherence to any set of beliefs, which lie outside of his chosen field of work, should be regarded as irrelevant when he is being considered for faculty appointment.

It is to be feared that a number of our universities will be unable to resist the increasing pressure and that men will be forced to resign or will be dismissed or will be refused appointment because they have become identified in the public mind with Communist activities. If there should be among those men any, who by virtue of their scientific or scholarly competence and intellectual integrity, would appear to make desirable members of the faculty of the University of Chicago, and if their appointment is recommended by the appropriate departments, the Council will urge the Administration to approve such appointments.

~~Class Resist~~  
~~Dismissed~~

End of Statement

The following two sentences might be added to the above statement if so desired by the Council:

~~"The Council realizes that if any new appointments are made on this basis additional funds might have to be made available for them. In such a contingency the Council might recommend to the members of the faculty of the University of Chicago that they make funds available to the Administration by voluntarily accepting one-half of 1% out in their salaries."~~

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Jus IV,