The Queenstown News

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Friday, September 10, 1954

What Should be The Attitude?

What should be the attitude of university administrations and the teaching fraternity as a group toward communist teachers? That has long been a big question in this country, and endless words have been written in an attempt to answer it. An impressive contribution to that literature has now been made by Dr. Frank Munk, Professor of Political Science at Reed College, in an article printed in the Portland Oregonian. Reed is a small institution in point of numbers but it has a national reputation.Dr Munk's discussion is made themore significant by the fact that three members of the Reed faculty, cited for alleged Communist party membership, refused to testify before a Velde Committee hearing on constitutional grounds ,and one of them has since been suspended by the trustees.

Dr. Munk has more than a theoretical knowledge of dictatorship—a Czchoslovakian by birth, he has lived under Nazism and Communism. He stands solidly for academic freedom, which means, among other things, the freedom to take an unpopular position. He believes that the congressional investigations are justly subject to criticism. But he also says: "Is it not true though that many intellectuals are only playing into the hands of congressional investigators by their deliberate blindness to the existence of conspiratorial Communist groups on the campuses of some of our best colleges and universities? . . . Would the investigators have had their field day had the academic profession been more sensitive to infiltration and more cognizant of the threat from the extreme left?Does liberalism always have to be one-eyed—seeing the enemy on the right but not the one on the left,"

Dr. Munk points out that the real question is what degree of academic freedom is possible—whether it should be unlimited or not—and ask "Does academic freedom protect teachers who espouse and propagate communism fascism or any other totalitarian idelogy—of which this century probably will see a few more?"

He clearly thinks the answer here is No, and he quotes with evident approval from the Harvard University report on Communist professors, which said in part: "We think membership in the Communist party by a faculty member today, with its usual concomitant of secret domination by the party, goes beyond the realm of his political beliefs and associations. It cuts to the core of his ability to perform his duties with independence of thought and judgment . . . It is beyond the scope of academic freedom."

Then Dr. Munk explains why the Communist party is fundamentally different from all other political movements extant in this country Its members act as agents of an unfriendly foreign power It provides the apparatus for an underground conspiratorial movement which would destroy our system of government and replace it with a dictatorship—a dictatorship which Dr. Munk describes as that "of the oligarchy ruling the Communist party." On top of that, Communist feel no obligation to the truth, which in itself, in his words, is a denial of "the very foundaton of academic freedom."

Dr. Munk goes into considerable detail and summons much factual and historical evidence in making his case against Communist teachers and it is a powerful case indeed. Finally, he believes the solution lies with the teaching fraternity. To quote him once more, "Ultmately academic freedom will only survive if i will be equilibrated by academc responsibilty to the profession itself and to the larger community."

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NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned has obtained from the Orphans' Court for Queen Anne's County letters of Administration on the personal estate of

BERNARD SLAUGHTER

late of said county, deceased All persons having claims against said deceased's estate are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the proper vouchers thereof ,to the undersigned on or before the 8th day of March, 1955, otherwsie they may by law be excluded from all benefit of said deceased's personal estate.

All persons indebted to this estate must settle at once.

Given under my hand this 25th day of August, 1954.

JAMES B. SLAUGHTER,
Administrator of the estate of Bernard Slaughter, deceased.

Date: August 25, 1954.
4t. September 3, 10, 17, 24

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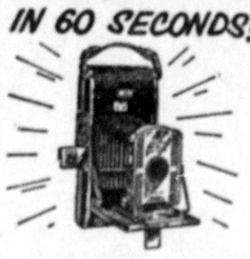

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