

The disturbing spectre of Communists in education seems to have reared its ugly head with a vengeance again. This time two Rutgers University professors are the cause.

It is difficult to assess the cases of Simon Heimlich and Moses Finley without a better acquaintance with the facts, and the facts will not be known until President Jones' special board finishes its investigation. We believe the board made a wise decision in holding its inquiries in secret, since that will put a damper on newspapers' favorite exercise of premature jumping to conclusions.

Analysis Needed For Conclusions

Even though we believe no conclusions should be drawn without an analysis of the board's findings, there are some facets of the case which invite comment. They are:

1. It is strange that President Jones took no action to determine Finley's political affiliations when the professor refused to answer a Congressional subcommittee's questions in March. An unpublicized investigation would have been preferable to an enforced inquiry bannered by what may be a hostile press.

2. The cases bear a striking similarity to those recently handled by the New York City Board of Education. The end result of those cases was the summary dismissal of a number of teachers because of their refusal to answer questions. Profs. Heimlich and Finley have taken a position similar to that of the dismissed teachers—refusal to testify because such action would be an infringement of Constitutional rights.

Constitutional Rights Involved

3. In all the inquiries conducted by Congressional committees the witnesses have been implicitly accused of guilt by the public before guilt had been ascertained. The same danger is inherent in the present cases.

We are not concerned with the question of whether or not men who follow the Communist line should be allowed to teach in a University. This question should be left to educators and debators. We are, however, deeply concerned over whether or not the cases of Heimlich and Finley will receive a fair and impartial investigation. As members of the American press we are convinced these men have a right to it.