

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir:

I cannot agree with the insinuation in Tuesday's Targum lead editorial that the American educational system is being hampered by investigations into the Communist tendencies of some of its members. Targum seems to feel that the responsibility of fighting subversive influences belongs strictly to the student and that his thinking must be clear enough to understand what he is being taught and what the value of his education is for him. Targum seems to feel that "hysteria" directed against anything hinted with Communism will prevent an understanding of this subject in colleges and universities.

## No Laws Possible

I believe that no law can ever be passed to prevent anything from being taught. No amount of public feeling will ever be generated to the point where Communist literature will be prohibited and the teaching of an understanding of Communism be prevented. Americans, especially today, pride themselves on the fact that in the battle of ideas, democracy and freedom of thought are our chief weapons. No teacher has anything to fear when he teaches the truth; any teacher with the courage of his own convictions and the desire to really educate people should not turn away from controversial subjects.

If, as Targum says, teachers have the right to believe in Communism, they also have the moral obligation to make this belief known. If they are afraid to say what they believe in, what proof have we that they are not afraid to teach the true nature of their beliefs and thus allow the student to put his thinking to work and come up with something valid?

Being a teacher and being re-

sponsible for the training and shaping of another person's mind, is a tremendous responsibility. Teaching has no place in it for those who advocate the overthrow of our government; no place for those who refuse to speak on grounds that they might incriminate themselves and certainly no place for men who are too cowardly to face public opinion and say what they believe in.

Some of these people ought to realize how much freedom of thought they would be allowed in Communist dominated countries. If subversive elements are allowed to decay our educational system, what hope can there be for fighting Communism in government and unions and in other walks of life?

Stan Kravit '54