

## GENERAL SCIENCE

# Fight For Mind's Freedom

Militant protest against world-wide attack on intellectual freedom launched at AAAS meeting as American Philosophical Society joins fight.

► A MILITANT protest against a rising world-wide attack upon freedom of the intellect developed at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Philadelphia.

This is not just another drive against Communism, it is a protest against the adoption in the free western world of so many of the methods of the Soviets.

A veteran in the fight for unhampered science and knowledge, Dr. Edwin G. Conklin, Princeton biologist and president of the American Philosophical Society, is spear-pointing the mobilization of scientists to resist special loyalty oaths, hampering special regulations, and control of campus speakers.

Owen J. Roberts, retired associate justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, protests what he calls "compurgatorial" oaths that require foreswearing "sin" in the past, as well as the present, even if the definition of sin is subject to change by administrative whim without notice.

This is no new stand. In 1933 the AAAS protested the Nazis and the Fascists by declaring the commonwealth of learning can not endure half slave and half free.

This was reaffirmed in Philadelphia. The targets now are state legislatures that require special loyalty oaths of professors, as in California, universities that censor speakers on their campuses, and national laws that deny on hearsay evidence visas and passports to scientific world authorities.

Even teachers accused of advocating the overthrow of government by force and violence are entitled to an impartial hearing and should not be dismissed until the truth of the accusations is established. This is urged in resolutions adopted formally by the American Philosophical Society, the venerable academy of scientists which dates back to the days of Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson.

Abroad today in the former enemy lands of Germany and Japan, America is officially sanctioning the return of illiberal restraints on science and knowledge. Scientists view this with apprehension.

These formal protests against restraints upon intellectual freedom are expected to encourage the thousands of working scientists throughout the country to resist unwarranted inroads upon their liberties.

**Text of Resolution passed by AAAS:**

"The Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science is profoundly disturbed over the present world conditions which so severely impede the

free interchange of knowledge even among friendly nations. Danger to the future of our nation is implicit in such restrictions.

"The Council recognizes the need for measures which will effectively safeguard our security, but expresses its troubled concern over the manner in which such measures, in particular the McCarran Act, are being administered, to prohibit American citizens from going abroad and citizens of other nations from coming here to interchange knowledge of science which does not affect security.

"The Council strongly urges that the administrative procedures under the McCarran Act be reviewed and modified so as to minimize injustices and to increase both our internal strength and our prestige abroad.

"The Council further urges revision and improvement of the relevant portions of the Act, to retain the objectives of necessary security, but with adequate provisions to maintain free interchange of knowledge that has no security implications."

*Excerpt from a paper by Dr. Kirtley F. Mather, Harvard geologist and president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, before the forum of American Association of Scientific Workers at Philadelphia A.A.S. meeting.*

► SCIENTISTS, by the very nature of their mental habits, are internationalistic in their outlook, rather than chauvinistic. They are accustomed to the study of a neutral world of objective facts that are the same, regardless of what nation the observer is a citizen, or to which of the races of men he belongs.

They know that there are fellow scientists in foreign lands who are working on problems more or less akin to those of their own research projects. They recall the beneficial results of free exchange of information and ideas amongst the scientists of many nationalities in many of the most significant scientific discoveries of the past. They are more aware than anyone else of the tremendous indebtedness of American technology to the scientific research prosecuted by citizens of other countries, ever since science came of age in America.

They know that the progress of science is most rapid when there is the greatest freedom for uninhibited communication among scientists the world around, such as was provided by the many international scientific organizations, with their world-



**DEFEND U. S.—**These F-89 all-weather fighter-interceptors are being readied for flight at Ontario International Airport, Ontario, Calif. Operational units of Scorpions are now being formed for the Western Air Defense Force. The planes carry a radar observer in addition to the pilot.