

Against censorship of books in library

12/19/74

To the Editor:

We of the Grinnell Chapter of the Rational Anarchists party wish to state herein our reasons for our stand against the censorship of the high school library.

Ben See, the head of the group supporting the censorship, is a lay preacher for the Church of Christ. Everyone would agree that any preacher would say that his (or her) job is to bring the general public into their church. This would indicate that Ben See is attempting, through his actions, to force his church's ideals on the school board and on the school's students. The Constitution of the United States states quite clearly that there should be a separation between the powers of the church (that means any church or religious group) and the decisions and policies of government. Therefore, the lay preacher of the Church of Christ should not interfere with the school, since it is a branch of local government. Censorship of the school library for this reason is wrong.

Ben See and his group supporting the censorship must feel that the students are not citizens of the United States. The Constitution of the United States guarantees certain rights for its citizens: the right of free speech, the right of free choice, the right to a free press, all of which were given to allow a free citizen to choose what he wishes to read and what he wishes to think. The so-called

supporters of the censorship want to take that right away from the high school students.

The next step would be to take those rights away from the rest of the population. This is the same thing that the Communists of the world want to happen. This causes grave doubts as to the real nature of the request for the books to be removed from the school library. Censorship of the school library for this reason is wrong.

Ben See's petition asks for "the removal from our school libraries of any and all (materials) which describe, explain or (allude) to sexual intercourse of or between humans." If this petition were followed, most of the books in the library, many textbooks, and even copies of the Bible would have to be removed. If a directive was so vague that it would be impossible to comply with, it would be foolish for the school board to try to comply with it. The censorship of the school library for this reason is wrong.

Using Charles Dodgeson's laws of logic and the information above, it is easily seen that the censorship of the school library is wrong.—
Daniel M. Kusnetzky, Grinnell

Book board now has 11 members

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The Rev. James Turner, pastor of the Church of the Nazarene here and current president of the Grinnell Ministerial Association, has been named to the reconsideration board which will discuss the possible banning of certain books from school library shelves.

Turner reportedly was appointed at his own request.

His appointment brings to 11 the number of persons who will read and evaluate allegedly "obscene" books as the result of a complaint by Ben See, a lay preacher who objected to the books' contents.

The Books being considered so far are "The Exorcist," "The Summer of '42," and "The Godfather." All have been temporarily taken from the shelves pending the board's investigation.

Other board members in-

clude Harriett Adelberg, Beryl Wellborn, the Rev. Danie Ogata, David Snyder Margaret Sarver, Dorothy Pinder, Robert Sheeder Audrey Gerrish, Jeff Guy and Virginia Cameron.

Dr. Neal Winkler curriculum director for the Grinnell-Newburg Community School District, said there are forms available at the school board offices concerning book complaints. Only books about which formal complaints are made will be considered by the board, he added.

The reconsideration board will hold its first meeting at 1 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, at the board offices, 929½ Broad St.

It is anticipated that interested citizens will have an opportunity to express their opinions on books being evaluated, although that is not expected at the initial meeting