

THE VIRGINIA TEACHER

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EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

A BASIC PHILOSOPHY FOR A REAL COLLEGE

A fixed conviction that any college worth its salt should consist of professors of intellectual and moral integrity was held by the late Ogden L. Mills. His views are effectively presented in a letter written on December 3, 1936, which has been republished in the *University of Chicago Magazine* and in the *Bulletin* of the American Association of University Professors. A few excerpts are reprinted here:

"A teacher has as much right to engage in outside activities, and to express his views on public questions, as any other professional man. That his views may not coincide with those of a governing body, or do violence to the conviction of the great body of graduates, may be unfortunate, but to ask him to remain silent unless his opinions conform to theirs, would be to limit his right as a citizen, to deprive him of part of his liberty, and to impose humiliating restrictions unacceptable to independent and high-minded men.

"Any University attempting to enforce such a censorship would soon cease to attract pre-eminent men who combine independence of mind with sound scholarship,

the very men who bring it strength and vitality. It would thus pay a penalty so heavy as to make any temporary embarrassment or irritation occasioned by the words or activities of an individual, however imprudent, seem comparatively trivial. . . .

"For my part, I would have little faith in my own beliefs and principles if I felt that they needed the shelter of authority and could not withstand the searching analysis of those who honestly hold otherwise. And I assume, of course, that in any well-conducted institution both sides of controverted questions will be adequately presented. Doesn't it all come down to picking a group of clear-thinking scholars, who are primarily scholars, balancing the inevitable tendencies to right and left, and then letting discussion rage?"

FOR PUPILS WHO WANT CORRESPONDENTS IN AUSTRALIA OR SWEDEN

The Interscholastic Department of the Student Forum on International Relations has a large number of names of Australian students, mostly girls between the ages of thirteen and fifteen, who wish to correspond with a student in this country.

The same organization has a request (from the Swedish committee for the celebration in Delaware of the 300th anniversary of the landing of the first permanent Swedish settlers in this country) for several thousand names of American students above the age of fourteen who would like to correspond with students of their own age in that country. This project may be of special interest to teachers of American history in states where there is a large population of Swedish descent.

The Student Forum takes charge of distributing names of American students in almost every civilized country. Further information can be obtained from the office of the Student Forum, 521 Phelan Building, San Francisco. A self-addressed, stamped envelope should be enclosed.