

From The New York Times

## Security vs. News

The Executive order issued last week on the safeguarding of official information represents a commendable effort to deal with this ticklish question. The order has obvious pitfalls and only time can tell whether it will succeed in establishing that delicate balance between national security and the right of the public to know what's going on.

However, President Eisenhower should get full marks for trying to achieve a meeting of minds on this problem. President Truman's decision of September, 1951, to establish a uniform system for classification of documents throughout the Government had aroused widespread protests. By allowing every federal agency to classify information on the same basis as the Defense and State Departments, Mr. Truman was charged with setting up a system under which governmental inefficiency or errors could potentially be concealed under the guise of protecting the national security. Although in practice there were discovered few, if any, abuses directly traceable to the Truman order that would not have occurred anyway, it probably did give a psychological boost to the mania for overclassification that is constantly present within the Government.

Last June the Eisenhower Administration made public the draft of a new order revising the 1951 rules. Study and discussion were invited, and it was only after everyone concerned had had a shot at it, that the new regulation became official, effective Dec. 15. Authority is completely taken away from twenty-eight Government departments and agencies to place official information under what is called "defense classification," and in the case of another seventeen agencies it is limited to the chief officer only.

Another major change is abolition of the entire "restricted" category, lowest grade in the classification system, leaving "confidential," "secret" and "top secret" in ascending order of security. The thought behind this move is that "restricted" formed a lazy man's catch-all, into which practically any document could be (and was) put by practically anybody without any real effort to determine whether its release might be harmful to the nation.

We would like to think that by abolishing "restricted," the President is also abolishing the abuse of "restricted"; but the danger now is that innocuous documents or information will be classified "confidential just as freely as they used to be classified "restricted."

To guard against this eventuality, provision is made for "continuing review of classified documents in each agency concerned. Furthermore, it is specifically provided that the President shall designate a member of his staff to consider "and take action upon" complaints from non-Governmental sources as to the operation of the new system.

These safeguards are all to the good. But sometimes departmental regulations are so rigid that within the Government itself the flow of information is undesirably impeded. And there still is room for former Senator Benton's idea of establishing in every department a "people's advocate" whose job it would be to see not merely that the system was working but, in a positive way, that the maximum amount of information was released consistent with national security.

## The Life Of Emile Zola

Bob Barlowe

Warner Brothers, who have long held the reputation of being Hollywood's foremost triflers with history, have paid their debt to the movie-going public, and to truth, with their presentation of *The Life of Emile Zola*. Rich, dignified, honest, and strong, it is at once the finest historical film ever made and the greatest screen biography—greater even than *The Story of Louis Pasteur* with which the Warners squared their conscience earlier.

The film will be shown free of charge tomorrow night at Carroll Hall at 7 o'clock and a discussion will follow.

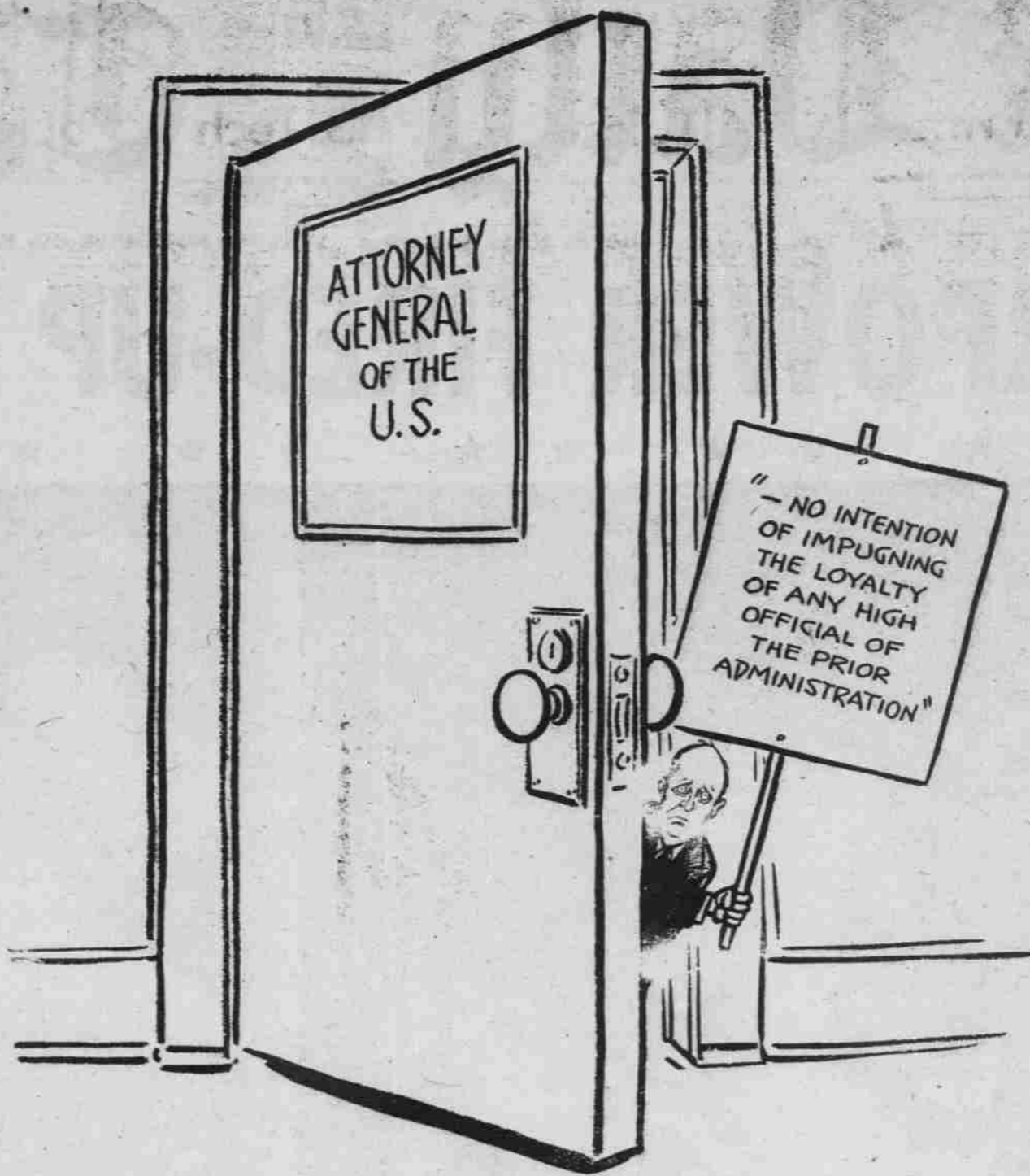
Like Pasteur the picture has captured the spirit of a man and his times; unlike Pasteur—and this is the factor which gives it pre-eminence—it has followed not so closely the spirit but, to a greater degree, the very letter of his life and of the historically significant lives about him. And, still more miraculously, it has achieved the brilliant end without self-consciousness, without strutting glorification, without throwing history out of focus to build up the importance of the central figure.

Literature knows Zola as the author of *Nana* and a score of other novels which crusaded, during a sociologically dark age in France, in behalf of the oppressed and the unenlightened. History knows him more dramatically as the man who cried out, so all the world could hear, against the famous perversion of justice that was the Dreyfus case. *The Life of Emile Zola* is the story of both these men—the crusading novelist, the Dreyfus defender—and it is a story told with dramatic strength, with brilliant language, and with superb performances.

Paul Muni's portrayal of Zola is, without doubt, the best thing he has done. Fiery, bitter, compassionate as the young novelist; settled, complacent, content to rest from the wars in his later years; then forced into the struggle again, although he resisted it, when the Dreyfus cause whispered to his conscience—Mr. Muni has given us a human and well-rounded portrait.

It would have been simple to stuff the character with glory, to present Zola as charging happily into battle in which he seemingly had everything to lose and nothing to gain. The true story was the more dramatic, and the Warner writers had the good judgment to follow it. Zola, when he thundered the "I accuse" message that eventually exposed the army conspiracy against Dreyfus, was no longer an individual. He had truly become, as Anatole France later said of him, "A moment of the conscience of Man."

That was the essence of Zola—that he was not a man, but an instrument of freedom, truth and social justice. There is something infinitely touching in the contrast of the physical Zola and the spiritual Zola: one—a human, frail, pathetic, at times quaint figure; the other—the driving force always present in his writings and utterances. The theme of the steadfast tread of truth in the march and our grateful knowledge with him, that "nothing will stop her," has been written into the film, just as it has been written into history. When a picture has that spiritual surge,



## Washington Merry-Go-Round

Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON—Here is some of the backstage by-play that has been going on both in Republican circles about the dynamite-laden subject of Harry Dexter White.

First, in Democratic circles: Harry S. Truman originally planned to honor the subpoena slapped on him by House Un-American Activities Committee Chairman Velde, later changed his mind.

Historical precedents set by other presidents and dug up for him by former White House Counsel Charley Murphy and Judge Sam Rosen were one reason for the change. Another was that he figured he could do a better job of present-

ing his side of the case in a nation-wide radio broadcast.

Meanwhile the ex-president was loaded for bear, was especially sore at his ex-Secretary of State, Jimmie Byrnes, who bolted to Eisenhower last year and who tried to put Truman in a hole last week by rushing into print with an announcement that he, Byrnes, had warned Truman about the appointment.

The ammunition Truman has dug up on Byrnes during the past two days is not likely to please the governor of South Carolina. For Truman friends got hold of Byrnes' appointment calendar for this period, also a copy of the FBI report of Dec. 4, 1945. This is the first FBI report on White and the alleged Soviet spy ring and shows it was sent to the Secretary of State for a very obvious reason.

It concerned Alger Hiss much more than it concerned Harry White. About five pages were devoted to Hiss, then working under Byrnes in the State Department; several other pages to a Russian-born economist who had been close to Cordell Hull; while only a few lines were devoted to White, then in the Treasury.

Mr. Truman plans to point up Byrnes' receipt of this information and the fact that he permitted Hiss to remain on in the State Department for three months, then accepted his resignation in a friendly manner so that he could take a job one year later under John Foster Dulles, now Secretary of State, as head of the Carnegie Foundation.

Truman will also point out that while Jimmie Byrnes was giving him a belated warning about White, he was strangely silent about Hiss, who was working right under Byrnes' nose in the State Department.

Byrnes' appointment calendar shows that he had ample opportunity to talk to Truman about this. He was in Washington from Dec. 4 to Dec. 12, 1945, and the FBI report on Hiss, White, et al, was received Dec. 5. Byrnes was in Moscow from Dec. 12 to Dec. 29, but remained in Washington from Dec. 29 to Jan. 7 during which time he did not tell Truman anything about either Hiss or White.

Byrnes was out of Washington from Jan. 7 to Jan. 25, 1946, but was back in the capital from Jan. 25 to Feb. 6. It was on Feb. 5 that Byrnes wrote a memo to the White House calling Truman's attention to White. One day later Byrnes called at the White House personally. At that time, Feb. 6, however, a call from the White House to Leslie Biffle revealed that White had already been confirmed by the Senate.

It was then decided, with the approval of J. Edgar Hoover, that it was better to let White remain in the Monetary Fund where he could be observed, in an effort to catch any other members of the alleged spy-network. This FBI check lasted approximately one year, ending in a no-bill before a grand jury.

Meanwhile, Mr. Truman has looked up the date on which Alger Hiss finally left the State Department to join John Foster Dulles. It was in December, 1946, one year after the first FBI report was given to Byrnes on Dec. 4, 1945. During most of this intervening time he continued serving under Jimmie Byrnes.

Republican backstage by-play regarding Harry White began with a political tour by Congressman Dick Simpson of Pennsylvania, chairman of the Congressional committee to re-elect a Republican Congress.

## The Athlete & Money

CPU

For many years since the advent of an extensive system of highly organized intercollegiate competition, the academic community has been embroiled in a, sometimes evident — sometimes concealed — but always bitter — controversy over the position to be accorded the varsity athletic system relative to the other organisms of the university.

Frequently we read of statements by university officials urging the de-emphasis of intercollegiate athletics. Occasionally the statement is accompanied by specific recommendations to effect the de-emphasis, but more often than not the official lets the statement stand alone in the field of glittering generalizations to be debated according to the merits of its interpretations by various persons. Fortunately, President Gray has made clear, at all times, his beliefs on the problem in a very explicit manner. Administrators of other universities would do well to follow his example.

It has been said that the three primary foundations of a university are 1) students, 2) books, and 3) instructors. Let us take for granted that the university has the students. What of the books? It is argued that the contributors are putting a far greater amount of money into athletics, a luxury in its present form, at alma mater than they are putting into books and libraries, necessities at all times if the universities are going to have the power of the infusion of knowledge in its students.

The vast amount of money needed to oil the cogs of the athletic machine is beneficial only at the time used; whereas, money spent on tomes of knowledge benefits a multitude of succeeding generations of students. To document this statement, I would point out that until recently the university of North Carolina had the largest and finest library in the South. Gradually, since the mid-1930's, our library has decreased in size to its present rank of fourth or fifth in size in the South. It does not require any effort to recall that this decline began around the time of the greatest emphasis on athletics here at Chapel Hill.

Let us proceed to the discussion of the faculty aspect of our three fundamentals. Generally, football coaches and other athletic officials receive from twice to three times the amount of salary paid to the highest ranking faculty members. Is this intellectual honesty? Is it more important to have outstanding football coaches and good football teams at our universities than it is to have outstanding authorities in various fields of knowledge and an enlightened population which will be equipped to cope with the serious problems of life and the menaces to our free civilization? Why is it that the universities with the least amount of athletic emphasis are generally the best educational institutions in the nation and continually graduate the men who, in future years, will appear in the councils of the nation and the world?

Assuming that a man comes to college to acquire an education which will prepare him for the role of active citizen when he graduates, I find it impossible to reconcile with sound educational goals the practice of allowing students to participate in intercollegiate football when those students do not have the grade requirements for graduation. Thus it appears that the football players are being exploited by the athletic supremacists to satisfy their own egotism as a graduate of a particular college.

There is a definite reason for requiring participants in intercollegiate athletics to maintain the average required of all other student leaders. After all, doesn't a football player represent the University as much as a member of the Student Legislature, who is subject to the grade requirement?

It is not so much football or athletics per se that constitute the threat to our educational system. The practices through which players are bribed to go to a certain university, paid to stay and play in sports, and accorded special privileges unwarranted by any special status are the source of the malignancy of present day athletics.

If intercollegiate football, for example, were placed on the same status as student government, if the members of the teams are chosen from the students who apply for admission voluntarily, if athletic team members were required to pay tuition instead of being paid retainer fees, intercollegiate athletics would once more return to the important role it deserves as a mold and promoter of health in our universities.

This topic will be fully discussed this evening at 8 o'clock in the Grail Room of Graham Memorial. Students, faculty members, and townspeople are urged to come and join in the discussion.

Lois Hodelavi

## Not Always A Girl's Best Friend

Anita Anderson

Rings are what belong on fingers or coming from telephone boxes. Rings are not what belong around bathtubs.

But some people seem to think that rings add something to bathtubs. Rings do add something, all right, but something I can't use. I'm sick, sick, sick of having to remove rings from bathtubs both before and after I bathe. I don't mind removing one ring after I leave the tub because that is my own, but I object to having to scrub two, three, or more rings away.

The people who leave their rings in the bathtub are very careless. And I suggest that they either abstain from bathing, learn to apply elbow grease in the proper manner after they bathe or confine their bathing to their own personal lavatories.

Or I'm for fining the careless ones and posting their names and offenses in the dorm parlor.

It is better to wear out than to rust out.—Bishop Richard Cumberland.

## The Daily Tar Heel

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