

-A Drama Unfolds In Raleigh-



WILLIAM FRIDAY
... quiet listener

Legion: Faculty Not Worth Risk

RALEIGH — With State Sen. Robert Morgan acting as its chief spokesman, the North Carolina Department of the American Legion last Thursday launched a strong defense of the speaker ban law, favoring the retention of the law even if it caused the University to lose its accreditation and its top faculty members.

At one time during the hearings, Morgan said: "We do not believe that if their (faculty) service has to be purchased at the price of allowing Communists to come upon our University to influence our youth . . . that their services would be worth the price that we have to pay."

During another part of the Legion's testimony before the commission, Henry Royall, chairman of Americanism at the organization's Chapel Hill post, shocked the audience and commission members by saying that a leftist tinge was necessary in order to succeed at the University.

Royall later denied that he had said this. However, a tape transcript showed the interchange to have gone as follows, with Royall answering a question put to him by commission member Rep. Lacy Thornburg:

"I can only describe that by a feeling . . . sort of an atmosphere, and I believe that if the commission really wanted to go into this matter, you could get students to tell you that they feel that to pass their work and get good grades, they would have to take a leftist tinge."

"Are you telling me . . ." Thornburg began and was interrupted by another commission saying "May I . . ."

No, let me," Thornburg countered, repeating, "Are you telling me . . ."

Royall immediately interrupted him and said, "That is a belief and a feeling."

Thornburg was finally able to ask his question: "Are you telling this commission, sir, that in order to pass the work, that is a part of the University program, and in order for a student to get a fair grade, it's necessary for him to profess or express leftist tendencies?"

"No, I'm not saying that," replied Royall.

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strated avid approval of what was said by Legion witnesses.

At one point segments of the audience cheered wildly while others, including a number of educators, looked grim. Britt then reprimanded the audience, and called for restraint.

At another point a gasp of shock and astonishment rose from the audience in response to a witness' statement. Frequently the audience would express amusement at a statement made by either a witness or a commission member.

Questions, too, varied from commission member to commission member. Chairman Britt usually supplied the routine questions, those asked of every witness, regardless which side his testimony supported.

Wilson Daily Times editor Mrs. Elizabeth Swindell, the only woman member of the panel, presented long, carefully-phrased thought-provoking questions, usually demanding a similar answer in return.

Rev. Ben C. Fisher's queries were soft-spoken and least inclined to upset a witness.

Col. W. T. Joyner, wearing dark glasses during the entire proceeding, almost exuded an air of indifference — almost, but only until the Raleigh lawyer detected a tiny flaw or an apparent contradiction in some part of the testimony. Then he would probe the witness on this point until he had received what he considered a satisfactory answer.

Rep. A. A. Zollicoffer's questions, often accompanied with a mischievous sparkle in his eyes, were frequently found amusing by members of the audience, but occasionally upset the witness.

Rep. Lacy Thornburg could usually be counted on to toss out a string of rather harmless questions, to be suddenly followed by a sharp, burning one.

Other commission members, Gordon Hanes, Russell Kirby and Charles Myers, usually stayed in the background, frequently passing up questioning a witness.

At times the questioning took on the air of cross-examination at a trial. One commission member would pick up a line of questioning where another member had left off.

Often several members, alternating in rapid succession, would fire off a quick burst of questions at a witness.

But usually, informality was the order of the day. Commission members and witness who had served together in the

General Assembly frequently addressed each other by their first names.

Reporters at the press tables compared notes and whispered private jokes back and forth. One UPI man chewed thoughtfully on a big cigar without ever removing it from its cellophane wrapper.

Photographers, cramped into a narrow space between

the press tables and the stage, occasionally darted back and forth, literally having to climb over each other in the process. Flashing grins and muttering apologies to each other, they stretched their legs whenever the opportunity provided itself, and did not complain.

All in all, the auditorium, the glaring Klieg lights, the quiet proficiency of the news-

men, and the varying speakers gave the hearings the air of an unfolding drama.

For some of the roles in this drama, the audience already knew the words, for other parts, it was kept guessing to the last minute.

At the end of Thursday's last session, one almost expected a curtain to descend. One act of the drama had been presented.



KEEP THE BAN: That was the suggestion of Duke assistant professor A. C. Jordan (left) as he spoke last Thursday before the speaker ban study commission. Commission chairman David Britt (left in photo at right) and panel

member Col. W. T. Joyner listen as American Legion spokesmen tell the commission that the law must be kept at all costs.

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