

"Report of Committee A, 1962-63"

The University of Illinois

On April 7, 1960, President David D. Henry of the University of Illinois wrote a letter concurring in the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences that Professor Leo F. Koch be suspended immediately from his academic duties. President Henry's letter also said: "His appointment will terminate at the end of the current academic year." Professor Koch was under contract through August of 1961.

Subsequently, in accord with normal academic due process, Professor Koch was given a hearing before a standing committee of the faculty Senate. That hearing group found that Professor Koch had committed a breach of academic responsibility but also held that the University administration had failed to use proper procedures and thereby lessened the teacher's power to make a proper defense. The Senate committee recommended that Professor Koch be reprimanded, that the Statutes of the University be revised, and that the University make clear that the expression of views by a faculty member which might be contrary to prevailing opinion in the community is not a violation of academic responsibility.

The Board of Trustees held a hearing on the case on June 14, 1960, and dismissed the teacher.

Committee A concludes that the prejudgment embodied in the President's letter, the failure of the Board of Trustees, without adequate declared reason, to support the unanimous recommendation of the Senate committee and, most important, the imposition of the drastic sanction of discharge for Professor Koch's public expression of opinion constitute violations of academic due process and academic freedom.

Committee A recommends that the University of Illinois be placed upon the Association's list of Censured Administrations.

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