

# Professor Refuses Texas Loyalty Oath

By NANCY KOWERT  
Collegiate Press Service

AUSTIN, Tex.—A retired Harvard English professor and Pulitzer prize-winning author has broken an agreement to teach at the University of Texas because he refused to sign the state-required "loyalty oath."

Howard Mumford Jones, who described the oath as "thoroughly vicious," was to be a visiting professor of English during the spring semester. He had taught general literature at Texas from 1919 to 1925.

It was the second loyalty oath case this year. Earlier, Bayard Rustin, a controversial civil rights leader, refused to sign the Maryland loyalty oath before appearing at the University of Maryland. Rustin did speak after the state's attorney general ruled the oath was not necessary for one or two appearances.

### Due in February

The 73-year-old Jones, an expert on American literature and culture, had made arrangements with the Texas administration to come to Austin in February.

"Then, they sprang the loyalty oath on me," Jones said. "It's a disclaimer oath, not a loyalty oath," Jones told the Daily Texan by telephone, saying he feels

such oaths "assume a person is guilty until he proves himself innocent."

The oath, in its present form, was passed by the Texas legislature in 1953 and requires that every potential state employee (which includes all university personnel);

•... Is not and never has been a member of the Communist Party;

•... Has not during the preceding five-year period been a member of any organization which the U.S. Attorney General has designed as totalitarian, fascist, communist, or subversive;

•... Has not during the preceding five-year period been a member of any communist political or front organization.

### Students' Different

A similar oath required of student employees omits the word "communist" and reads, in part, "I swear or affirm that I believe in and approve of the Constitution and the principles of government therein contained . . . and will not aid or assist . . . movements to subvert or destroy the government."

"This faculty oath violates the principles of the American Association of University Professors," Jones wrote in a letter telling Chancellor Ranson of his decision.

"It violates the principles of equity since attached to the form is a list of scores (a total of 290) of organizations alleged to be

subversive or disloyal on the grounds that they appear on some other lists compiled I know not how," the letter continued.

"I have combatted this kind of oath all my life as a member of the faculty at various state universities and at Harvard University," he wrote.

### Declined UCLA

"I once (in 1950) declined to teach during the summer term at the University of California (at Los Angeles) because that institution then demanded an oath like yours."

Jones went on to say that "the oath is an affront to me as a responsible American citizen who has worked for his government and several times taken an oath to defend it."

## Students Receive 'Verbal Grades'

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (CPS)—Some students at Kalamazoo College are getting verbal grades.

What they hear, simply, is the recorded voice of their professor evaluating and grading their term papers or lab reports. By replacing the red pencil with a dictation machine, several professors have found that they can give students more than twice as many comments without increasing the time it takes to grade a set of papers.

The school has not had the opportunity to evaluate the system scientifically but some observations, based on the 200 students involved in the initial test, have been released.

Thus far the system has been tried by professors in the English, history, philosophy, and chemistry departments. All the teachers who have tried the new form of grading plan to keep using it.

John B. Moore, who introduced the system at Kalamazoo, says that student-teacher contact is greatly increased.

Moore originally tried the idea in an attempt to have grading time. Instead, he found he was spending about the same amount of time grading papers but was making far more detailed comments than he did with a pen.

There have been no student complaints and much praise from those who felt they were receiving more personal attention.

"We get a lot more understanding just by hearing the tone of the professor's voice," one student said.

### Oregon Daily Emerald

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Norman Hackerman, vice chancellor in charge of academic affairs, said he "regretted Jones' decision not to come to the university." He said the university has a "neutral position" toward the oath. "We just administer it," he said.

"He said earlier this year that he would be glad to come," C. L. Cline, chairman of the English department, said. "It was only when he got the official papers to fill out that he balked. We made him an offer of a salary beyond anything made by any professor in this department," Cline continued.

### Courses Shelved

Jones was to teach senior and graduate level English courses in American literature. The courses will not be offered now that Jones is not coming. Jones is the first person to break an agreement with the University of Texas over the principle of having to sign the oath.

Some potential professors have been unable to sign the document because of prior association with a "subversive" organization identified on a list attached to the oath, but Jones is the first to refuse on principle.

Before he was hired at Harvard, Jones signed an oath, required of all U.S. citizens who plan to teach in Massachusetts.

That oath reads, "I do swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that I will faithfully

discharge the duties of the position of (blank) according to the best of my abilities."

### Harvard Supports

Clark Byse of the Harvard Law School, chairmen of the AAUP committee on academic freedom, supported Jones' action, saying the oath "is not an effective means of ferreting out communists and subversives."

"The trouble with loyalty oaths is that they accomplish nothing, harm people and create a suspicion that is unhealthy in a democratic society," he said.

Jones was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1965 for "O Strange New World," the first volume of a history of American culture.

## Woodwind Quint Concert Friday

The Woodwind Quintet concert previously announced for today at the University will be held at 8 p.m. Friday at the School of Music auditorium.

Selections to be performed are Mozart's "Divertimento No. 14 in B-Flat Major," arranged for woodwind quintet by Anthony Baines; Carl Nielsen's "Quintet, Op. 43"; Elliott Carter's "Woodwind Quintet"; and Francis Poulenc's "Sextet for Piano and Woodwind Quintet."

The public is invited to attend free of charge and to meet the artists in the rehearsal room following the concert.

## Freemesser Gives Symposium Talk

Bernard L. Freemesser, associate professor of journalism, presented a paper on "Visual Aspects of Journalism Education" at the Dec. 29 meeting of the third annual symposium of the Society for Photographic Education in Chicago.

The Society for Photographic Education is an organization of leading photo-journalism educators, photographers, and editors. Freemesser, who was elected to the society earlier this year, is the only member from the northwest.

## Migrant Labor Meeting Cancelled

The Migrant Labor Project will not meet tonight as previously announced.

A spokesman for the project said Wednesday that the meeting, which had been set for 7 p.m. today in the Student Union, had to be cancelled.

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