

RALPH NADER

A MAN AND A MOVEMENT
by Jay Acton and Alan LeMond

The inside story that the establishment couldn't silence! Ralph Nader, an obscure lawyer in 1965, became America's foremost consumer crusader. His bestselling book *UNSAFE AT ANY SPEED* forced Detroit to raise their auto safety standards. And it was just the beginning. Since then he and his organization, nicknamed NADER'S RAIDERS by the press, have worked tirelessly to improve the quality of the food we eat and the air we breathe. He's been hounded, threatened and attacked by the large corporations he dared challenge—but he would not be silenced and he could not be stopped. This is the true story behind the man and what he's done.

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AAUP labels tenure system as 'good ... but not perfect'

Support of the concept of tenure as protection both for students and faculty was given during December by the University chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).

Concern with public statements regarding the function and purpose of tenure in higher education prompted the statement, according to John Shepherd, professor of speech and president of the University chapter of AAUP.

The AAUP statement follows: "Recent attacks on the concept of tenure and its importance to the University require a public statement by the teaching profession. Tenure is a hard-won right of faculty members to be true to their ideas and values without fear of reprisal or loss of jobs.

At its best it protects students as well as it protects faculty; for,

without such a system the ability of students to hear and weigh new or unorthodox ideas could be sadly curtailed. Every lecture and every book or article assigned might be given with eye to what would be pleasing or acceptable to the administration, the public, and indeed the students themselves; for students, as we have seen in recent years, are as capable as anyone else of stifling debate and controversy.

"To be sure, once a faculty member is granted tenure, he cannot be removed from his job unless it is demonstrated by a peer review process that he is incompetent or immoral, or unless financial exigency forces the institution to eliminate his job.

"One of the prices we pay for the tenure system is its rigidity. Nevertheless, before one proposes to do away with tenure,

he must consider the alternatives. These include individual contracts, civil service, or unionization.

"To be realistic, faculty would never accept individual bargaining, because to do so would force them to sacrifice both personal freedom and economic security — the very same things which have led workers to organize into unions. Instead of individual bargaining, the faculty would demand the protections offered by civil service or rights established with collective bargaining. Both of these employment systems, of course, establish seniority and other forms of tenure for employees.

"The real issue is the manner in which tenure is granted, not whether or not to grant it at all. In answering the question, one must note that in granting tenure an institution binds itself to an individual for the rest of his working career, barring incompetence, financial exigency, or a decision on the part of the individual to take another job.

"In consequence, students and taxpayers have every right to demand that tenure be granted only to superior faculty members. Superior faculty members are people who both do a good job of teaching and keep up to date and contribute to knowledge in their fields. Unless we attract and keep such faculty members, students and taxpayers are cheated.

"Do the personnel procedures at the University of Oregon guarantee that only superior faculty members get tenure? Probably not; but, it is not because the procedures are inherently bad.

"A new assistant professor must usually wait three to six years before he is considered for promotion to associate professor with tenure. During that time he must show that he is developing himself as a teacher and as a scholar, and his performance is subject to annual reviews.

"When he is considered for promotion, his case is reviewed by his departmental colleagues, his dean, two elected faculty personnel committees, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, (Continued on Page 18)

Ombudsmen set for new term

The AAUP ombudsmen program initiated last fall will continue winter term — and will begin today.

The program — which has as its purpose the solving of problems that individual students run up against at the University — was begun by volunteering members of the American Association of University Professors Nov. 13.

Students can see individual ombudsmen from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday this term. According to AAUP member Grace Graham, the schedule for this term is: Robert Campbell, economics department head, today; John Sherwood, English professor, Tuesday; a volunteering AAUP member is yet to be assigned for Wednesday; Tom Cappuccio, assistant professor of fine and applied arts, Thursday; and Earl Pomeroy, history professor, Friday.

The room in the EMU will be posted.

Monday, January 8, 1973

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