

Editor's Mail

(Contributions are invited. Letters should be limited to less than 300 words. Only signed letters will be considered for publication. Personal attacks on individuals will be eliminated.)

Social Security

Gentlemen:

For your many readers, who were concerned over the appearance recently in a national magazine of an article entitled "How Secure Is Your Social Security?" may I please refer them to the Congressional Record, Friday, Sept. 29, 1967, for a statement by Wilbur J. Cohen, undersecretary of Health, Education and Welfare, entitled "Social Security Is Not in Trouble"?

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Academic Freedom

Dear Sir:

Subject: Oct. 23 editorial on faculty responsibility.

In an attempt to review the chief issues concerning the case of Dr. Robert McClellan, you have, in my opinion, demonstrated that you have no clear conception of the proper social function of education and that you have no accurate idea of what academic freedom involves.

As the editorial stated, a teacher "has a contractual responsibility to the taxpayers and to the community and to the university." These commitments do exist. But it is a commitment to develop free human beings who can pit their humanity against the subtle but awesome pressure of a society ever more prone to subtly manipulating its citizens. To accomplish this goal, a teacher must be free to bring his students into society and to fortify them against the forces of conformity. He must be free to teach them not to avoid social and institutional issues if for no other reasons than to

preserve freedom of choice and the sanity of diversity of opinion.

Considering the delicate and complex nature of this process, any attempt to abridge or otherwise tamper with academic freedom will have unfortunate effects on Northern Michigan University. If the present trend continues, I fear that NMU will graduate individuals useful as cadres for the system—unartistic squares, up-tight bores more concerned with status and personal security than with life and experience.

Every educator must be free to sustain and foster the humanity of his students. Nothing could be more ambitious, more urgent or more honorable.

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OF MAIDS AND MEN

For several years New York City has been employing Meter Maids to help enforce curbside parking-meter regulations, and the program to use women for the job has been successful. But of course a law had to come along and spoil it all—the state Fair Employment Practices law. It forbids discrimination, which is intrinsically commendable. But it has forced the city to add 14 Meter Men to the 200 Meter Maids. Somehow the whole idea seems to be upset.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Side G

