The presence of members of the Communist Party on college campuses poses an important problem which, at present, is fast becoming a major threat to our concepts of "academic freedom." There is the danger that all students might eventually be denied the benefits of higher learning. The basic premise for such an assertion is, perhaps, that, as members of an authoritarian organization, communists are not free to "follow the truth where it may lead," and are thus unfit to teach. The declaration of the American Association of Universities, one month ago, seems to follow this line of reasoning. "Membership in the Communist Party," states the A.A.U., "extinguishes the right to university position." This stands to seem us to be a rejection of the very concept of academic freedom that the Association is attempting to proclaim.

The sole basis upon which we determine those men who should be allowed to teach should be their ability to teach. Each teacher's classroom competence, and the responsibility for judging those members appointed to college faculties lies with the educational institution and its administrators. To allow any standards of judgment other than those applicable to all citizens and scholars is to essentially undermine the democratic processes of academic freedom.

We do not recognize the rights of any teacher to indoctrinate students, and the college should rightfully dismiss those members of its staff whose political motives have seriously hindered their honesty and ability to teach. Each teacher must be placed upon his own record. If he is a scholar and teacher, an individual is praised and patronized, then he should be held responsible. Otherwise, whatever his political affiliation. As long as the obligations of a teacher are being fulfilled, however, a member of an academic community should enjoy the privileges of academic tenure.

To operate on the premise that all communists adhere completely to party policies is to subscribe to the same logic that we are attempting to combat. To believe, then, that we need not fear this basis of determining his intellectual ability to teach would only indicate an adherence to the very policies which the Association is attempting to repudiate. That we are familiar with those testimonies. We believe, then we need not fear this basis of determining his intellectual ability to teach.