

Teachers Union

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

EST. 1916

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President Abraham Lederman • Vice-President Harry Starfield • Legislative Representative Rose V. Russell • Secretary Lucile Spence • Treasurer Mildred K. Garvin

September 17, 1954

TO ALL TEACHER INTEREST COMMITTEES:

Dear Colleagues:

The front page of the World-Telegram and Sun of Friday, September 17, reports that "The Board of Education is split over how to handle ex-Communist teachers who won't disclose the identities of other teachers they saw at party meetings."

According to this report, Superintendent of Schools William Jansen agrees with those Board members who believe that teachers who have admitted past membership in the Communist Party should not be compelled to inform on others as a condition for retaining their positions.

In the past, teachers were assured that they would not be required to become informers if they answered questions about their own possible earlier connections with the Communist Party (see "Strengthening Democracy," March-April, 1953). Undoubtedly, there were some who relied on these assurances when they decided to admit past membership.

Although teachers may differ among themselves about the general policy of the recent inquiries, they must all view with abhorrence any attempt to force teachers into becoming informers against their colleagues. The teaching staff must defend itself against this threat to impose wholesale degradation on the profession.

We urge all TIC's, faculties and individual teachers to support Superintendent Jansen and those Board members who are in agreement with him on this issue. Send communications to that effect to Superintendent Jansen as soon as possible.

We would be grateful for copies of any letters sent.

Sincerely yours,

Abraham Lederman

Abraham Lederman
President

Rose V. Russell

Rose V. Russell
Legislative Representative

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