

Statement by A C L U

Ann Arbor - Washtenaw County Branch

RECEIVED

AUG 17 1966

PRESIDENT'S
OFFICE

The Ann Arbor - Washtenaw County Branch of the American Civil Liberties Union is distressed by the University of Michigan's compliance with the House Un-American Activities Committee subpoena of membership lists of certain student organizations. The University had displayed considerable courage in the past several years in defending the rights of its students to express unpopular ideas and in defending their entitlements to due process and equal protection of the laws in the face of potential encroachments at the local level. In the face of a more formidable opponent it has capitulated.

What is even more distressing is that one of the great universities in the nation has abdicated its responsibility to uphold and protect the tradition of dissent. This is especially disturbing in view of the not very subtle efforts by HUAC to intimidate opponents of our foreign policy. Furthermore, we believe that the University's commitment to the widest possible expression of ideas should have dictated that it exhaust all judicial remedies to determine whether HUAC was engaged in activity which violated the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment.

The longer that the Vietnamese War continues the greater will be the challenge to our commitments to the Bill of Rights. We urge the University's administration to express in the strongest possible terms its unwillingness to participate in any way in the future in encroachments on the First Amendment.

Robert S. Friedman, Chairman

On behalf of the Ann Arbor -
Washtenaw County Branch, American
Civil Liberties Union