

Our America

By Dr. Ruth Alexander

BENJAMIN FINE'S column, "Education in Review," (*New York Times*, Jan. 20), stated that "leading American educators are divided on the issue of whether membership in the Communist Party is sufficient grounds for dismissal from a college or university post. The question of academic freedom disturbs many conscientious spokesmen of higher education."

What's "disturbing" about it? Why should our leading educators be troubled about denying our children the know-how of murder, arson, lying, stealing and religious defilement? Are these part of a "liberal" education? They are—according to Communist theory and practice, and no serious Communist would deny it.

But is that suitable subject matter for the American classroom, or sheer insanity? And how insane can you get in the name of "academic freedom"?

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IT IS BAD ENOUGH for tax-supported public schools to feed, clothe and shelter Communists and pro-Communists, but it is even more revolting for the "finishing" schools of the rich, whose bread is well buttered with the fruits of capitalism, to cater to Communism.

Yet Mr. Fine notes Dr. Harold Taylor, the "liberal" President of Sarah Lawrence College, as holding that "an avowed Communist has a right to teach in a college or university."

Dr. Taylor seems to be "disturbed" by the recent dismissals at the University of Washington and Mount Olivet College, where "radicals are referred to by the administration as termites," and where "academic freedom has become quite meaningless."

IT'S ABOUT TIME!

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DR. HERBERT DAVIS, president of Smith College, expresses similar views, according to Mr. Fine, who concludes with the observation that "basically the nation's educators agree on the issue of academic freedom. They insist that the right of the professor to his own opinions should remain inviolate."

If they were free opinions, that notion might hold water. But the Communist's opinions are not free. **THEY ARE DICTATED.** They can be changed only by dictation from above, even on academic matters.

Yet these intellectual serfs claim the right to despoil our young people in the classrooms of America—under the name of "academic freedom."