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Lots Of Liberty; No Poison.

As an American citizen I don't want any narrow-minded reformers hampering unnecessarily the exercise of anyone's liberties. Liberties are too sacred for such useless restraints.

But no greedy meat-packer or milk-peddler or bun-maker or fruit-canner can, in the name of liberties, set me against the Pure Food Laws that protect the table at which I eat. As an American citizen, I like to help people preserve their liberties, but I don't want to be carried out like a poisoned puppy after the evening meal some night.

My stomach can't detect arsenic but food inspectors can. And my stomach is too important to risk to a poison which will speed through my system and make me the next inert customer of the embalmer down the street. Yes sir!

If I understand liberties correctly, no producer of food has liberties that entitle him to destroy my health. Liberty does not mean unhindered freedom to operate as a manufacturer pleases. Liberty means operation with respect to everyone's rights.

But how about the human mind? Is it not a moral stomach through which even more disastrous poisons destroy the characters of men? Can nothing be done while rich publishers of filthy magazines ravage thousands of young characters throughout the length and breadth of the land?

No less a person than sharp, practical head G-Man, J. Edgar Hoover, sounds this warning: the increasing number of sex crimes is due precisely to sex literature badly presented in certain magazines. Filthy literature is the great moron-maker. It is casting criminals faster than jails can be built.

An extremely effective drive against filthy literature is being engineered, as you know, by the N. C. W. C. of South Bend. The mayor, and chief of police; the Boy Scouts; the Y. M. C. A.; Protestant ministers; the principals of the public schools; the C. Y. O.; all the Catholic parishes are behind the drive. Most business men concerned are cooperating wholeheartedly, have gladly removed from their shelves all objectionable books and magazines.

But there are still some greedy ones to be brought in line and held there. Just recently a Notre Dame investigator visited a newsstand in South Bend. "Why," he asked, "are you no longer handling such-and-such a magazine?" Sensing future patronage the entrepreneur slyly replied, "We'll have it back when the newspapers and these so-and-so club women turn off the heat."

The heat will not be turned off. In fact, the temperature has just begun to rise. This campaign against lewd literature is too necessary, too basic. Cities throughout the country are quickly taking it up. Bishop Nell has been asked, for instance, to present plans to all other bishops of the United States; soon he will do so. Newspapers, non-Catholic societies in other cities are beginning the work. Pure Food Laws are indispensable to civilized living, but they are no more indispensable than adequate measures to protect against the poisoning of young American minds.

The entire city of South Bend is soon to be canvassed, house-to-house. Volunteer student-canvassers will cover the halls on the campus this week. You will be asked to sign a pledge: I promise to refrain from purchasing and reading lewd literature and even to withhold patronage from places where such literature is sold. If you welcome this opportunity to help protect the moral and mental hygiene of young Americans throughout the nation, sign up.

PRAYERS: (deceased) friend of Carl Wiedlocher, Ill, father of Dick Mullin (Lyons).