Dear Dr. Milgrod:

The President has asked that I acknowledge your telegram of March twenty-first, confirmed by subsequent letter, regarding the matter of loyalty of Federal employees.

The United States Civil Service Commission, which is charged with the administration of the loyalty program, has been asked to give careful consideration to the points advanced by the American Psychological Association, Inc., and the President desires that you know he appreciate the constructive thought you have given this matter. Your views are valued highly.

Very sincerely yours,

DONALD S. DAWSON
Administrative Assistant to the President

Dr. Ernest R. Milgrod
President
Stanford University
Stanford University
California

dsd/ddb
President Harry S. Truman
The White House
Washington, D.C.

20 March, 1949

The following statement has been prepared and adopted unanimously by the Board of Directors of the American Psychological Association at its regular meeting held at Ann Arbor, Michigan, March 18-20, 1949:

"During the war, large numbers of American scientists entered government service. Many of them were psychologists. Since the war, the extent of the essential services performed by psychologists has increased greatly. In fact, the number of psychologists now required by the federal government far exceeds the supply available for such employment.

"The present retention and further recruitment of qualified psychologists for government service are seriously threatened by events in a few localities. Executive Order 9835 has the clearly justifiable intention of averting damage to the United States by agents or adherents of potential enemy nations. Its operation in many localities has been characterized by care and discretion, and by attention to the real needs underlying the order. In some other localities, however, the execution of the order appears to neglect the basic civil rights of Americans and is detrimental to the morale of loyal persons in government service. In particular instances, persons have been accused with only vague statements of the charges against them. Individuals have been assumed to be disloyal until they could prove their loyalty, and have been subjected to personal distress, expense, and loss..."
of professional esteem on charges that were as yet unsubstantiated. While the intent of the order was clearly to prevent damage, its execution, in certain localities, is in fact causing injury to government service by the loss of morale among employees, and by discouraging qualified psychologists and other scientists from accepting appointment.

"It is therefore urged that loyalty investigations be conducted in every instance in a manner that will preserve morale and maintain the attractiveness of government service for competent scientists. Loyalty boards should respect the right of every person accused to know all the charges against him, to have a prompt and fair hearing, to confront adverse witnesses, and to summon witnesses on his own behalf. Boards should avoid the use of vague statements and rumors as accusations, and should refrain from an uncritical application of the doctrine of guilt by association. Only thus can really loyal employees be protected while charges of disloyalty are being investigated.

"We believe the undesirable features of the present situation would be alleviated by the following steps on the part of appropriate officials:

1. A careful examination and correction when necessary of the practices being followed by the small number of local boards concerning which complaints have arisen;

2. The issuance of statements to local loyalty boards clarifying the true intent of Executive Order 9835."

Ernest R. Hilgard, President
Stanford University

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