Introduction

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Throughout the year 1955-56 Marquette University celebrated its 75th Anniversary. To commemorate the occasion the University presented five major academic conferences. The fourth conference, held March 20 through 23, 1956 was devoted to “Problems of Communication In A Pluralistic Society.”

Since certain of the discussions on the topic are of particular value for members of the legal profession the Marquette University Law Review presents them in this issue.

Justification for the attention which the University gave to the topic is found after reflection upon facts about us.

A look back over a span of years for no longer period than the early 1900's to the present reveals that in the United States men have made greater economic progress than in all of the thousands of years of their earlier existence. And the zenith of the standard of living is not yet in sight. Another view of those same years reveals, however, that the people in the United States experienced the pandemonium of World War I, the boom and crash of the decade of the 20's, the catastrophe of World War II in the 40's, the uneasy conclusion which moved into a cold war and finally into a hot war masquerading as “police action” and the present rearmament for defense.

This brief review of recent history indicates that in spite of our material progress we have not reached the zenith of better living. If we are to approach that goal, people must learn to live together in peace and harmony to the same extent as they have learned to work together to produce goods.

Obviously we cannot fully learn to live with other people until we achieve understanding and consideration for each other. For understanding to result, we must learn how to communicate with each other on a vastly larger and more accurate scale.

That is why Marquette University selected for one of its major seventy-fifth anniversary discussions the topic “Problems of Communication in a Pluralistic Society.” It is of the utmost concern to the na-
tion and the world that universities turn their attention to working for better understanding between people. The first four addresses in the conference, "Communication—Making Men of One Mind in Truth," "Grammar and the Twentieth Century," "Does Semantics Contribute Anything Over and Above What Grammar Does" and "Necessary Moral Bases for Communication in a Democracy," dealt directly with the problems of developing better understanding between people.

Three other talks centered on the general area of the people's "Right to Know." Starting from the premise that mutual understanding develops best in a climate where people have access to information and that such access is the best insurance against government encroachment upon freedoms of individuals, a jurist, a government official and a journalist worked to locate the line between legitimate and improper efforts by government to control the securing of information. Two additional addresses dealt with censoring—another tool which is used in efforts to curtail the getting at information. A philosopher scrutinized the moral problems and a jurist the legal problems involved in the censoring of media of mass communications.

The Marquette University Law Review publishes herewith the discussion on the "Right to Know" and on "Censorship." Lawyers as a class are particularly aware of the dangers to freedom which flow from a blackout of information. And yet they know that some restraints must be placed on the freedom to publish. The legal profession should find stimulation in the treatment of the problem as presented in this number of the Law Review.