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January 31, 1981

Dr. Charles S. MacKenzie, President
Grove City College
Grove City, Pennsylvania 16127

Dear Dr. MacKenzie:

Twice before I acceded to your request for a report on "all discussions with individuals or groups on legislative matters." I shall do so no longer on grounds that it deprives me of a basic civil right as a U.S. citizen.

It is one thing for an employer to inquire into my activity during my working hours in order to ascertain the interaction and convergence of my work with his objectives. But it is an entirely different matter that assumes ominous significance if I am called upon to report directly or indirectly to the state. Your questionnaire obviously seeks information on my activity in order to report it to some government agency. I object to that interrogation.

As a professor of economics and social scientist I seek to participate in all important political, social, and economic issues that have a bearing on society. To the best of my ability I try to reach the hearts and minds of my students. With my pen and in many public lectures and speeches I seek to reach Americans from coast to coast. Yes, I am very active in public education that hopefully has its effects on political action and legislation. I personally know numerous politicians and try to influence them whenever I can. I have testified before House and Senate committees and thereby demonstrably affected federal legislation. For this reason I chose to become a professor rather than a Wall Street man or business executive.

To deny me the right to participate in public debate is to deny me not only the right to practice my profession but also my Constitutional rights. I object.

It is difficult to believe that any government agency actually would openly seek to suppress the opinions and statements of a professor. Therefore, I suspect that your questionnaire was concocted and designed by a Grove City College attorney who cannot think from fear. I shall no longer submit to its degrading questions.

Sincerely,

Hans Sennholz