



April 6, 1967

To Members of the Faculty and Teaching Staff

Gentlemen:

The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts recently declared the so-called Teachers Loyalty Oath Law unconstitutional. This law, therefore, no longer has application to the teaching staff of the Institute.

The decision of the highest court in Massachusetts was occasioned by a suit commenced in September, 1965, between Assistant Professor Joseph Pedlosky and the Institute. By agreement between the Institute's counsel and the plaintiff's counsel and at the request of both parties, the case was reported directly to the Supreme Judicial Court.

It will be recalled that when this law was proposed to the Massachusetts Legislature in 1934, the President of the Institute openly opposed it. After the law was enacted, the Institute was obliged to comply with its provisions as long as it was in force. It has been and still is our belief that the law was not a sound law. Accordingly, in compliance with our instructions, our counsel did not argue or submit a brief in defense of the law.

We propose to destroy all copies of the Oath cards in the near future. However, a faculty member who wishes to have his signed oath copy returned, should communicate with the Registrar, Mr. Warren Wells.

Sincerely yours,

M. G. Kispert  
Vice President, Academic Administration