PART FIFTEEN

"Intemperate and Libelous"?
Dear Professor Dyen:

I have your letter of April 20, which reached me on April 26. I've discussed its contents with Martha Friedman and now write on her behalf as well as my own.

I believe that Academe's pages must be open to members of AAUP wishing to comment, favorably or adversely, upon the Association's policies and practices. The Editor, however, must retain the right to refuse to publish communications which contain intemperate accusations or which, in the opinion of the Association's General Counsel, are libelous. I regret to say that some of Professor Lang's recent letters can be characterized in either or both of these ways.

If Professor Lang or Yale's chapter or any other member or members of AAUP submits for publication a thoughtful and temperate critique of the Association's relationships with The Chronicle of Higher Education, I will urge the Editor to publish it, together with any rebuttal by the Chronicle or an officer of AAUP or both, in the next scheduled issue of Academe. Should I have any doubt about the degree to which the critique satisfies the twin criteria, I will submit it to the General Counsel for review. Any negative opinion provided me by the General Counsel will promptly be reported to Professor Lang.

I hope this answer speaks adequately to you and your chapter's concerns. If not, I'll try to clarify or amplify my position.

Sincerely,

Morton S. Baratz

May 1, 1979