RESOLUTION CONCERNING AFFIDAVIT AND OATH
PROVISIONS OF NATIONAL DEFENSE EDUCATION ACT OF 1958

WHEREAS, the National Defense Education Act of 1958 requires each eligible student, as a condition precedent to receiving any payment or loan under the Act, first, to execute and file an affidavit of disbelief, non-membership, and non-support in and of any organization that believes in or teaches the overthrow of the United States Government by force or violence or by any illegal or unconstitutional methods and, second, to take and subscribe an oath or affirmation that he will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States and will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; and

WHEREAS, The Regents of The University of Wisconsin, at the time of initially approving participation by The University of Wisconsin under the Act, protested the affidavit and oath requirements of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the affidavit and oath provisions of the Act are suggestive of a trammeling of inquiry by subjecting thoughts, research, and learning to political restrictions and are, therefore, contrary to the sound principles of academic freedom upon which the leadership of The University of Wisconsin, in independent research and in scholarly learning, has been grounded; and

WHEREAS, contrary to the settled doctrine of American jurisprudence that an individual is presumed innocent of wrongdoing unless proven guilty, the affidavit and oath provisions of the Act unfairly and unjustifiably single out as objects of distrust and suspicion the needy students in our colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, even if the affidavit and oath provisions of the Act were not otherwise objectionable, the requirements imposed are purposeless because, in a democracy, fealty to one's government cannot be compelled but must be deserved and won; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding continuing and unyielding opposition to the affidavit and oath provisions of the Act, it is the opinion of The Regents of The University of Wisconsin that the doors of the tax-supported University of Wisconsin cannot be properly closed to needy students, having no personal objection to the affidavit and oath requirements of the Act, who are obliged to avail themselves of the benefits of the Act in order to secure educations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by The Regents of The University of Wisconsin;

1. That the said affidavit and oath provisions of the National Defense Education Act of 1958 be, and the same hereby are, again unequivocally opposed and condemned;
2. That Wisconsin's United States Senators and Members of the House of Representatives be, and they hereby are, respectfully urged to propose and support the repeal of said affidavit and oath provisions of the National Defense Education Act of 1958 in the Congress of the United States, and that a copy of this resolution be furnished to each member of Wisconsin's congressional delegation; and

3. That the President of The University of Wisconsin be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed to cause to be furnished to each student indicating a desire to apply for benefits under the said Act a copy of this resolution.

( Adopted by University of Wisconsin Board of Regents at its meeting in Milwaukee---December 3, 1959.)