

Princeton
Alumni
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WITCH-BURNING

PRINCETON is not at all certain that it is complimented by the announcement that the Citizens Vigilance Alliance, a new heresy-hunting society, is to establish its permanent headquarters here. The organization is now sending out release sheets from Jersey City. It is an interesting coincidence that the announcement should arrive just as we were printing Mr. Clark's challenging discussion of academic witch-burning.

Sponsor of the new movement is Anthony M. Hauck Jr., prosecutor of Hunterdon County, who gained prominence in the Hauptmann trial and now wishes a state legislative investigation of subversive influences in educational institutions. According to Mr. Hauck, his league "will be aggressive but will in no manner assume the duties, in any detail, of city, county, or state legal or law enforcement bodies. The basic plan is to cooperate with such agencies."

If the new league limits its activities to propaganda for the particular brand of Americanism in which it is interested, no possible objection could be raised; there is already plenty of propaganda for other brands, and Mr. Hauck, as a citizen, is entirely within his rights if he wishes to join in the fun. If, however, the league hopes to gain the semi-official status once enjoyed in another field by John Sumner and the Society for the Suppression of Vice, instructing law-enforcement officers and making the decision as to what is un-American, we believe the citizens of New Jersey may have a word to say on the subject.