EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE
HEALTH NEEDS OF THE NATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

August 22.

Executive Secretary, Loyalty Board
Fourth U.S. Civil Service Region
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Sir,

I enclose my replies to your interrogatories of August 15th.

I am attaching to these replies four exhibits which I respectfully request the Loyalty Board to consider in determining my loyalty. Since several of these are my only copies, I should like them returned to me when a determination is completed.

If these replies to the Loyalty Board's interrogatories are not deemed adequate to establish my loyalty to my government, I should like to have a hearing before the Board.

Respectfully,

Thomas F.Gorman.

Encls:

Exhibit A - THE READER'S DIGEST -September,1948 issue

Exhibit B - Citation as one of Nation's Ten Outstanding Young Men.

Exhibit C- Pamphlet - "Oklahoma's Problem Children".

Exhibit D -Pamphlet - "If We Can Love".

Allegation (1) - took an active part in Anti-war rallies sponsored by the undergraduate Communist clique at New York University:

I agree that I took part in anti-War rallies at New York University in the 1930's, but these rallies were not sponsored by the Communist clique. The Communists tried to get control of the whole undergraduate student movement, but they never succeeded.

Along with many other thinking students in the 30's, I was heartily opposed to the solution of man's conflicts by brutal, killing war. As a liberal Roman Catholic, I joined with my fellow students from other religious denominations in the idealistic fight to end war. The leadership of our segment of the student anti-war movement was provided by the church and YMCA and YWCA groups. We held our rallies in the Judson Memorial Church. We followed in the great and noble tradition of the Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1923 and the fundamental idealism of Woodrow Wilson. Surely, Woodrow Wilson and Kellogg were not Communists.

It is true that the Young Communist League tried, time and time again, to take over our movement and capitalize on our unsophisticated idealism. Along with my fellow liberals, I fought them and we kept them from taking over.

I am very proud of my record in College. In my Senior year, I was one of six students out of a class of nearly one thousand elected to Sigma, the Senior Honorary Society of Washington Square College. It chooses its members, not on the basis of scholarship, but on the basis of character, integrity and service to the entire student body. I also won several scholarships and fellowships, and was also elected to Phi Beta Kappa in my Senior year.

What was college idealism in the early 30's became a different thing when our country was threatened. I knew all of us must fight the vicious wave of totalitarianism -

there could be no neutral ground.

Right after Pearl Harbor, I enlisted in the U.S.Army as a Private, making no effort to get a commission. I didn't have to enlist -my mother was dependent on my income at the time, and I could have been deferred. But I wanted to do my part, and I was inducted in January,1942. I was honorably discharged in November,1945.

Allegation (2) -that I stated, in substance: "We now have in our morality a new frame of reference -that which advances the Communist cause is true and that which impeaches is fake".

This statement is utterly foreign to every belief I hold.

I never made such a statement, or anything similar to it. My whole life work is living proof of my devotion to the democratic way of life. I have crusaded and given of myself unsparingly to better the lot of the average man, and I am deeply and humbly grateful that my fellow men have honored me far beyond my worth for these crusades.

I have never, for even one day of my life, been taken in by the Communist philosophy. They were all around me at New York University, but I knew them for what they were and are.

Furthermore the statement above, even in substance rather than direct quotation, is totally unlike the manner in which I express myself. It has a rigid, dialectical air which is utterly foreign to my mode of expression. The writings which I enclose are proof of this.

Allegation (3) - that I forbade my mother to read the New York Journal-American because it opposed Communism.

This is an evil and completely untrue statement.

In the first place, my mother was an intelligent, independent woman. A former school teacher in the New York City school system, she was active in the liberal wing of the Democratic Party in Queens, several times being elected to the District Executive Board. She read the NEW YORK TIMES in the morning and the NEW YORK WORLD in the evening. She had no use for the Journal-American because she had a hearty dislike for William Randolph Hearst and all that he stood for in the way of cheap, sensational journalism. However, if she had wanted to read the Journal-American, I could not have stopped her.

I think I know whereof this evil statement originated. My mother was very active in the Roman Catholic Church of our parish. In the early 20's, a prominent Catholic Priest named Charles Coughlin began to preach vicious hymns of hate against the Roosevelt era and the democratic way of life. Catholic Social Action clubs were formed to foment his doctrines. From the first, my mother was an outspoken fighter against this movement. Our neighborhood was 95 percent Catholic, and most of my mother's friends became Social Actionists. Many who had been her friends for many years refused to speak to her. When one of the Catholic Priests in our parish began to advocate Social Action, my mother, my brother and I went to a different church.

During this period, the Journal-American was Father Coughlin's chief supporter among the New York papers. It is quite probable my mother had some pretty sharp things to say about the Journal-American.

Finally, I might say that my mother had better taste than to ever want to become a reader of a paper which purveyed to the lowest forms of prejudice.

Allegation (4) - Expounded ideas that closely followed the Communist Party line and had all the earmarks of having been thoroughly indoctrinated with Communism.

This is so preposterous that I am at a loss as to how to answer it.

I have never knowlingly followed the Communist Party line in any way. In fact, I have never known just what the Communist Party line is. In any event, I have never expressed agreement with the Communist philosophy or program.

I have never been a member of, or sympathetically associated with, the Communist Party or any of its front groups. In fact, I have never had the slightest sympathy with the Communist Party or Communist ideology.

My remarks have never been indoctrinated with Communism, because my knowledge of Marxism is quite superficial. As a deeply religious person, I have been strongly opposed all my life to a doctrine which denies God. I am a believer in the goodness of the average man. I believe that a Christian society must be judged by the way it treats its weaker citizens, not its stronger ones. For this reason, I have fought a life-long battle for the mentally ill -they who have been neglected and fallen by the wayside. I hold closest to my heart the title of one of my mental health booklets: "If We Can Love -This is the Touchstone". In a world filled with hostility, we must learn to how to live with, understand and love our fellow man. If we hate, it is because we are immature.

In re my loyalty to the United States-

I am most proud of the fact that I was selected one of the Nations Ten Outstanding Young men for 1948 by a jury composed of Dwight D.Eisenhower, Harold Stassen, Henry Kaiser, Dr. C.W. Mayo and other distingusiehd Americans. I was chosen, not because I had made a lot of money or been a great baseball player, but because I had served my fellow Americans by improving conditions for thousands of mentally ill people. I could not have succeeded in this crusade if I did not have a great love for, and loyalty to, the ideals of this nation.

I am proud of the fact that Rev. W.H.Alexander, Pastor of the First Christian Church in Oklahoma City, wrote of me:

" Mike Gorman has raised the whole level of care and treatment in the field of social and human welfare in Oklahoma. He has made history and in doing so, has raised Oklahoma to a higher plane among her sister states."

I am proud of the fact that THE READER'S DIGEST condensed my book, "Oklahoma Attacks Its Snake Pits" not only for millions of Americans, but for millions of DIGEST readers in all parts of the world. I am proud of the fact that I got 1,200 letters from all parts of thw world telling me that I had brough a new vision of American democracy to foreign lands.

A man's love of his country is mostly an unspoken thing - it is not something said every July 4th while the fireworks go off. Implicit in the continuing crusade I am engaged in for better health for all Americans is a passionate desire to extend the bounty of democracy to everyone fortuante enogut to live in our land today.

If you question my loyalty as an American, you ouestion the very meaning of the things I have fought and suffered for. I am content to stand or fall with them.

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I did not list this arrest on Form 60 becu se I really didn't think of it as an arrest. On November 27,1949, I want out and got quite drunk because of the sudden death in an accident of a life-long friend of mine. I just couldn't bear the thought of thinking about it afater I got the heart-breaking call from his wife.

Later that night, quite drunk, I crossed Wilshire Boulevard against the light, A policeman stopped me and started to give me a lecture. Quite mad at the world, I proceeded to tell him off. When he asked for my address, I refused to give it to him. He got angry and pushed me in the patrol car. I was booked for the night and released in the morning.

In the lifetime of a man, an occassional outburst is not too amiss. Inmy entire life, aside from this one incident, I have been a good citizen and a friend to my fellow man. I owe no one an apology for one fall from grace.

I have not used intoxicating beverages "habitually to excess". True, in my twenties when I was a bachelor and in a business which I did not like, I tied an occassional one on over the week-ends. But I was never an alcoholic or a problem drinker. I attribute this allegation to the blue-nose Puritans who lived on our block in Astoria - those very smug, Holier-than-Thou Catholics who cut my mother off because she refused to go along with their vicious Coughlinite prejudices and their Roosevelt-hating venom.

The tremendous production of my writing life gives the lie to this charge. If I had used alocholic beverages to excess, how could I have turned out close to a million words over a seven-year period on behalf of the mentally ill of America?

I am a moderate drinker - I like a highball or two before dinner, period. I can bring in any number of witnesses, both here in Washington and elsewhere, who can testify that work is my sole motivating drive and that sobriety is a necessary condition of the kind of work I do.