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February 26, 1971

Mrs. Elizabeth H. Johnson
Oregon State Board of Higher Education
c/o City Center Motel
Corvallis, Oregon 97330

Dear Mrs. Johnson:

I have been asked to sign a petition in opposition to the OSPIRG proposal to assess students a \$1.00 fee to support their program.

I do not feel that signing the petition expresses my feelings in opposition to the proposal strongly enough.

I would encourage the use of the facilities of our public educational institutions for research projects and even as a platform for the promotion of political, social and economic programs (so long as there is no sponsorship by the institution involved).

The OSPIRG proposal is an obvious attempt to raise funds to promote litigation, directly or indirectly. There well may be pollution and corruption and, to the extent there is such, it ought be fought vigorously. But I vehemently object to the use of our public institutions as a vehicle for raising the funds necessary to finance such projects. A basic tenant of our public education system is that it be free from the tentacles of any political or social group and the collection of funds for such a group transcends that freedom and is an invalid application of university resources.

So that there is no misunderstanding with respect to my feelings, I do not object to the research aspect of the OSPIRG proposal. My objection lies in any attempt to fund

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

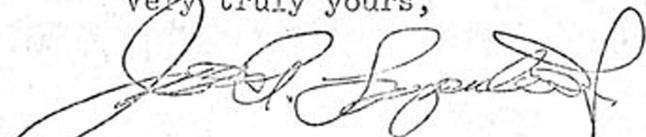
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PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

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Mrs. Elizabeth H. Johnson
February 26, 1971
Page Two

such project, even though limited to research, through mandatory payment of fees to the institution by the student. The refund concept is a joke and subterfuge. Let the proponents of this political and/or social action group raise their funds just as any other similar organization must do, through solicitation of voluntary donations.

Very truly yours,



JAMES A. LARPEUR, JR.

JAL:cw