

Keep the doors open

10/28/66

Censorship
A REMARK passed at a recent meeting of the Live Oak school board during a discussion of books which had been withdrawn from the reading list is more disturbing than the matter of the books themselves.

The statement was to the effect that the board would have been better off to have discussed the matter in secret — away from the ears of reporters and the public. That way, a controversy would have been avoided.

While the matter of censorship and protection of the freedom of expression is an exceedingly delicate and complex matter, it doesn't seem unreasonable that trustees should show concern over the nature of the reading material it puts in the hands of its young people.

But where better to do this than out in the open where everyone can have his say? In the final analysis, it should be the community, not a privileged few — which is what a school board is — which should determine what the standards shall be.

Most public agencies — probably including this one — conduct more business in secret than they should, mostly for reasons of convenience. Too many public officials refuse to accept the simple fact this is a privilege to which they are not entitled.

Green Sheet