



Public Affairs Room

CALTECH STUDENTS have a new tie with the outside world in the Public Affairs Room now set up in Dabney Hall. The room is operating under a grant from the Carnegie Corporation—which has given the Institute \$150,000 to be used during the next five years to improve undergraduate instruction in the humanities and social sciences.

The Public Affairs Room is stocked with newspapers, news magazines, journals of opinion and government bulletins from all over the world—a cross-section of the press of this and other nations. Its purpose: to make available to Institute students and faculty all the best sources of world news and current events, reflecting both liberal and conservative opinion.

The Room receives the daily air-mail editions of the *New York Times* and *Herald Tribune*, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle* as well as the local *Los Angeles Times* and the *Examiner*. There are magazines like *Time*, *Newsweek*, the *United States News*, *The Reporter*, and publications of the State Department, the Pan American Union, the National Committee for Free Europe, the Friends Service Committee and the Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report.

From England come the weekly air-mail editions of the *London Times* and the *Manchester Guardian*, as well as magazines like *The New Statesman* and the *Nation*, *The Economist*, *The Spectator* and *The Listener*.

Other foreign publications come from such diverse sources as China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa, Soviet Russia

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and Turkey—most of the material written in English.

Besides newspapers and magazines the Room contains a selection of recent books which tie in with current events. A series of changing exhibits and wall displays are intended to clarify some of the issues underlying the news.

The Public Affairs Room has a progenitor at Dartmouth College, where a similar room has been set up since 1947 as part of a Great Issues Course required of all seniors. But the Public Affairs Room is a revolutionary and valuable addition to the intellectual life of a scientific institution. At the very least—and on very short exposure—it provides a lesson on how to read. By offering several viewpoints on the same current events it can prove to a student that he can judge what he reads only as long as he knows where he's reading it, and why it was written. At the most, of course, it provides an opportunity for the student scientist or engineer to learn more about the world outside his classroom or laboratory—and possibly even something about the place he can take in that larger world.



Mrs. Doris Logan, in charge of the Public Affairs Room, keeps on top of the news, advises students on reading.