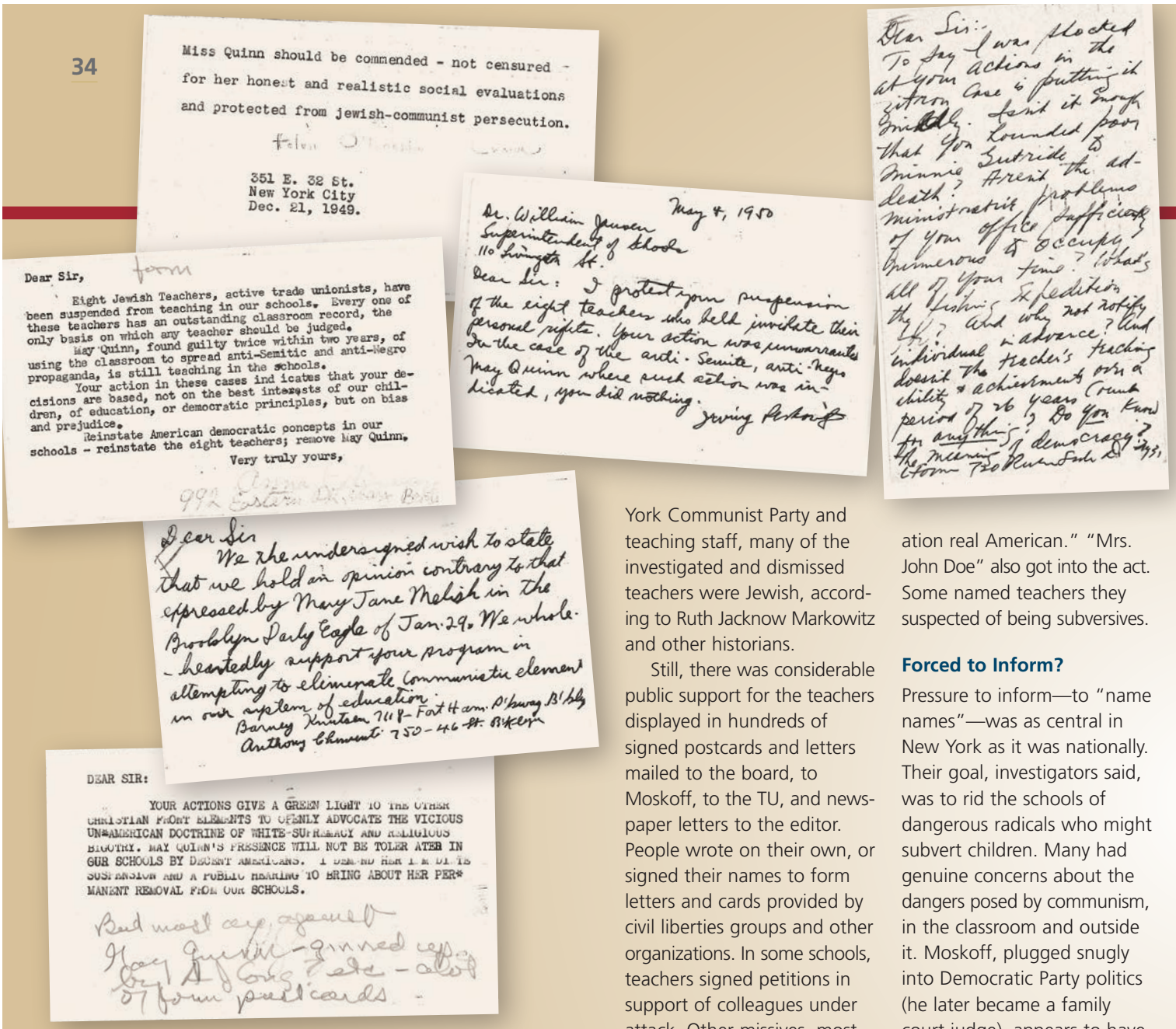

Miss Quinn should be commended - not censured - for her honest and realistic social evaluations and protected from jewish-communist persecution.

351 E. 32 St.
New York City
Dec. 21, 1949.

Dear Sir,

Eight Jewish Teachers, active trade unionists, have been suspended from teaching in our schools. Every one of these teachers has an outstanding classroom record, the only basis on which any teacher should be judged.

May Quinn, found guilty twice within two years, of using the classroom to spread anti-Semitic and anti-Negro propaganda, is still teaching in the schools.

Your action in these cases ind icates that your decisions are based, not on the best interests of our children, of education, or democratic principles, but on bias and prejudice.

Reinstate American democratic concepts in our schools - reinstate the eight teachers; remove May Quinn.

Very truly yours,

May 4, 1950

Dr. William Jansen
Superintendent of Schools
110 Livingston St.

Dear Sir: I protest your suspension of the eight teachers who held invisible their personal rights. Your action was unwarranted in the case of the anti-Semite, anti-Negro May Quinn where such action was indicated, you did nothing.

Irving Adler

Dear Sir,

We the undersigned wish to state that we hold an opinion contrary to that opressed by Mary Jane Welsh in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle of Jan. 29. We wholeheartedly support your program in attempting to eliminate Communistic element in our system of education.

Barney Knutsen 118 - Fort Hamilton Pkwy Brklyn
Anthony Chimento 750 - 46 St. Brklyn

DEAR SIR:

YOUR ACTIONS GIVE A GREEN LIGHT TO THE OTHER CHRISTIAN FRONT ELEMENTS TO OPENLY ADVOCATE THE VICIOUS UN-AMERICAN DOCTRINE OF WHITE-SUPREMACY AND RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY. MAY QUINN'S PRESENCE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN OUR SCHOOLS BY DECENT AMERICANS. I DEMAND HER IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION AND A PUBLIC HEARING TO BRING ABOUT HER PERMANENT REMOVAL FROM OUR SCHOOLS.

Dear Sir
I was shocked
To say I was shocked
at your actions in the
Ginzburg case is putting it
mildly. Can't it occur to
you that you sounded poor
Minnie Gutridge to
death? Aren't the ad-
ministrative problems
of your office sufficient
numerous & occupy
all of your time? What's
the rush & expedition
by? And why not notify
individual in advance? Don't
doesn't the teacher's teaching
ability & achievement over a
period of 26 years count
for anything? Is democracy?
the Melvin Storm 750 Riverside Dr. 193,

New York Times and the tabloids reported, often daily, on the Board of Education's efforts to get red teachers out of the city's classrooms, announced with giant red headlines in the *New York Journal-American*. *The Tablet*, the voice of the Brooklyn diocese of the Roman Catholic Church, crusaded against communism and secular influences, and for prayer in the public schools. Secular groups and professional red hunters made their own contributions. Adding to the tensions, given the demographics of the New York Communist Party and teaching staff, many of the investigated and dismissed teachers were Jewish, according to Ruth Jacknow Markowitz and other historians.

Still, there was considerable public support for the teachers displayed in hundreds of signed postcards and letters mailed to the board, to Moskoff, to the TU, and newspaper letters to the editor. People wrote on their own, or signed their names to form letters and cards provided by civil liberties groups and other organizations. In some schools, teachers signed petitions in support of colleagues under attack. Other missives, most, but not all, anonymous, ranged from venomous and obscene to sometimes accidentally humorous, like the typed (and signed) note reporting someone as a "communist carrying card." Some were explicitly anti-Semitic, calling Jews "the curse of the earth" and suggesting they return to Palestine—or to Hitler's ovens. Others took potshots at "Godless communists" and "communistic" teachers. Anonymity hid behind such sign-offs as "true American," "John Doe," and "first generation real American." "Mrs. John Doe" also got into the act. Some named teachers they suspected of being subversives.

Forced to Inform?

Pressure to inform—to "name names"—was as central in New York as it was nationally. Their goal, investigators said, was to rid the schools of dangerous radicals who might subvert children. Many had genuine concerns about the dangers posed by communism, in the classroom and outside it. Moskoff, plugged snugly into Democratic Party politics (he later became a family court judge), appears to have been a fairly conventional anti-communist liberal. For him, and for some board members and political figures, communism was inherently antithetical to democracy. Communists were entitled to their beliefs, but couldn't be trusted to teach the city's children if they held those beliefs. By 1952, Moskoff was writing to the board about "a question of policy"—what to do when a teacher called in was willing to talk about himself, but refused to name others. The informer issue was officially on the agenda.