Statement from Pete Seeger on SD Unified School Board's February 10, 2009 Proclamation

I am happy that the San Diego Unified School Board has chosen to apologize for its predecessor's requirement that I take a loyalty oath before performing at a folk music concert in 1960.

It is a measure of justice that our right to freedom of expression and association has been vindicated.

I am troubled, however, that the state of California still requires state employees to swear an oath to defend the state constitution "against enemies, foreign and domestic" with no option to state religious or non-violent codas. I urge state lawmakers to approve a 2009 bill that allows those who have religious or moral objections to stand by their own principles. Let's read the 1st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

I thank the San Diego Unified School Board for making such a moment possible for me today.

Signed:

Pete Seeger

Feb. 9, 2009

Date