

## When Success Is Stifled

Professor Richard T. Nolan ought to be honored — not penalized — by Mattatuck Community College for co-authoring a textbook that is nationally used in his field.

Officials at the Waterbury-based college have threatened to require Mr. Nolan, a professor of philosophy and history, to perform additional services for the school unless he turns over his royalties from the sales of "Living Issues in Philosophy." His book is used in more than 230 institutions.

Mattatuck faculty members must teach a fifth course unless they spend about nine hours a week on outside activities that, according to the administration, benefit the school. Mr. Nolan's work on two textbooks has fulfilled the requirement. But the college changed its position late last year.

Acting President Kenneth Summerer wrote Mr. Nolan that "while the college is proud to boast of the authors on its staff and does recognize the positive public relations which result . . . no direct benefit is actually enjoyed by the institution" unless the school

receives his royalties.

Mr. Summerer is wrong, unless he defines "direct benefit" as something that can only be measured in dollars and cents.

The school might look at the dispute from a different angle. Mattatuck is likely to suffer if it develops a reputation for discouraging scholarship.

Mr. Nolan has challenged Mr. Summerer's decision. A ruling, from an assistant to the executive director in charge of personnel and contract services for the community college system, is expected next month.

The American Association of University Professors, in a soon-to-be-released statement addressing the issue of profits, holds it to be "standard for a university to impose no profit sharing duty on the author of a successful text."

Community colleges should not be seen as second-class schools. By penalizing a nationally recognized professor for his success, Mattatuck only reinforces this unfortunate stereotype.