Politics in mathematics? In the past century, political decisions (seemingly) far outside the scope of mathematics have influenced the development of the discipline in small and large ways. These choices have not only had an impact on the lives of individual mathematicians but also on the larger community and the creation and diffusion of ideas. Using the lives of Hua Luo-geng and Emil Artin, this talk begins to explore the far-reaching consequences of political decisions made elsewhere on the American mathematical community. (Received September 11, 2014)