

# Hoffer on Colleges: 'Strong' Men Needed



By Bob Burchette—The Washington Post

Hoffer: "You need men who love a fight."

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The Congressional debate over campus unrest opened a second front yesterday as a Senate subcommittee heard longshoreman-philosopher Eric Hoffer declare that "what is needed . . . is not strong laws but men of strong character."

"You need men who love a fight," said the 67-year-old author of the "True Believer." "Men who get up in the morning, spit in their hands, and say, 'Who do I kill today?'"

Hoffer, dressed in his usual garb of an open-collared, checked shirt, boots and corduroy pants, was the lead-off witness before Sen. John L. McClellan's Permanent Investigations subcommittee, which has switched its attention from urban to campus unrest. Hoffer is a member on the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence.

Sprinkling his testimony with words that he said not even the San Francisco waterfront would condone, the irrepensible Hoffer traced the current wave of student unrest to the 1964 disturbances at the University of California's Berkeley campus. There, he said militants "ran circles" around University President Clark Kerr who was suffering from "innocence and trustfulness."

Maintaining that, in the San Francisco Bay area at least, "there has been no conspiracy," Hoffer declared that college administrators should learn that student "grievances do not mean much . . . Even if the war and the civil rights problem got settled overnight, you are still going to have trouble," he said.

"But what strikes me . . ." Hoffer added, turning to last year's riots at Columbia University, "is that there is a lack of ability to get angry. Take

(former Columbia president) Grayson Kirk." Hoffer said students broke into Kirk's office, urinated on his carpet and still Kirk didn't get angry.

"It would have been a wonderful thing," he yelled, pounding the table before him, "if Grayson Kirk got mad and got a gun and killed a few."

Hoffer, whose testimony confused, startled and amused the Senators, declared that radical tactics are destroying American universities. "San Francisco State used to be beautiful," he said, "but now it is dead."

Sen. Abraham A. Ribicoff (D-Conn.) disagreed, saying that San Francisco State "will be a Phoenix and come and live again." Student unrest, Ribicoff added, "will lead to greater institutions."

Earlier in the House, Columbia University Professor Jacques Barzun told Rep. Edith Green's Education subcommittee that "American Universities will not recover from these blows for decades . . ."

Barzun said protesters "hope to gain their ends by intimidation and blackmail. Anyone who thinks that this can lead to a better life for students and a better university does not know what a university is."

The university, Barzun said, will have to take "strong means" to counter student violence.

Barzun was supported by Seymour Martin Lipset, a Harvard University government professor who left Berkeley after the student riots there. Student unrest, Lipset told the subcommittee, is a world-wide "political phenomenon" rooted in a "crisis of authority" that he traced to the 1950s when southern segregationist defied court orders.

Both Barzun and Lipset said they were opposed to Federal legislation to combat student disorders, Barzun, however, suggested that state or local laws might do the job.

The Green subcommittee has been hearing witnesses for the last two months in an attempt to draft what the Oregon Democrat has termed "moderate" legislation that would curtail student disorders. The Senate panel under McClellan (D-Ark.) is looking into the causes of the disturbances.