

2-15-67

CIA Corrupting Student Groups

THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY has got another innocent coed in trouble again. This time it is the National Student Association, the largest and oldest association of college and university student body organizations in the United States. NSA has chapters on 300 campuses; it claims to speak for about 1.5 million students — most of whom of course have no idea of what it is doing or even that it exists — and it carries a good deal of influence as a voice of the rising generation of Americans.

With characteristic insensitivity to the best interests of respectable institutions in American life, the CIA set about some years ago to inject the cold war and political espionage into the activities of the student organization. It achieved this by clandestinely subsidizing "projects" to the tune of from \$50,000 to as much, apparently, as \$200,000 a year. As the CIA's funds are unbudgeted, unaudited and inexhaustible, this fiscal corruption of what is, essentially, a loose federation of student body presidents went unmarked and unreported to Congress and the public.

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RAMPARTS MAGAZINE, which last spring had exposed the CIA's infiltration of Michigan State University's aid mission to South Vietnam, brought to light the news of the CIA's undercover relations with the collegians. Apparently the National Student Association was willing to establish links with the CIA to get funds to enable it (the NSA) to keep its end up in foreign activities. NSA promotes the American image at international congresses of students and maintains contact with some 60 foreign organizations of students.

It will undoubtedly be found that the CIA also wanted to be kept advised of the attitudes of foreign students on American campuses, regarding them as future leaders of their countries on whom a sleuthing agency should begin to build dossiers.

Having embarrassed Michigan State, having endangered the virtue and reputations of other eminent institutions like M.I.T., and now having been caught in the act of contributing, so to speak, to the delinquency of minors, the CIA has just about run the gamut of damaging and blighting relationships with educators and students. It has exposed this significant and precious sector of American society to suspicion, disgust and contempt in countries abroad.

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IT IS UTTERLY TRAGIC that this huge, overfunded, irresponsible and irresponsible agency should have been permitted by the President of the United States to initiate and engage in undercover activities with an organization like the NSA, which is particularly vulnerable to rich seducers since it is perhaps not the most efficiently managed organization one can imagine.

The top leadership of the executive branch of the Government should tell the CIA to lay off the students and go back to their XKE Jaguars with retractable scimitars.