

STUDENTS ASSAIL C.I.A. 'WHITEWASH'

Criticize Johnson's Support of Katzenbach's Report

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 24—

The President of the National Student Association criticized today as "a whitewash" President Johnson's approval of a preliminary report supporting the Central Intelligence Agency's secret financing of association activities.

W. Eugene Groves, 23 years old, a 1965 Rhodes scholar who has been president since last September of the largest student organization in the United States, said at a news conference that in spite of the White House endorsement, "I continue to feel that the C.I.A.'s use of private institutions was unjustified."

The White House released a report yesterday saying that the agency's subsidy operation had been approved since 1952 by four Presidents, their Secretaries of State and Defense, and the National Security Council. The council is chaired by the President.

An investigation is under way by a special Presidential committee headed by Under Secretary of State Nicholas DeB. Katzenbach. The White House report was in the form of a letter from Mr. Katzenbach to President Johnson.

"There ought to be a more thorough investigation of the C.I.A.'s role," Mr. Groves said.

Mr. Katzenbach's committee also consists of John W. Gardner, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and Richard Helms, Director of Central Intelligence.

The committee's preliminary report said the intelligence agency had not acted "on its own initiative" in secretly giving financial support to the student association and other educational and labor groups but "in accordance with national policies established by the National Security Council."

The letter praised the anti-Communist objectives achieved through the subsidies.

"When you have the director of the C.I.A. as one of the people making the report," Mr. Groves said, "I do not think it would be critical of the C.I.A."

Mr. Groves was joined at the news conference by Edward Schwartz, association vice president for national affairs.

Mr. Schwartz said that "the comments of these officials seem rather strange." The report "did not deal with any of the ethical or political questions involved," Mr. Schwartz said.

He continued:

"It avoided the ethical and political questions entirely. It merely said these programs were beneficial. If these programs were so beneficial, why didn't the Government tell the American people about them?"

The student leaders' criticism was echoed in a joint statement by the Board of Education and the Board of Christian Social Concerns of the Methodist Church. The Methodist spokesmen called for an investigation by Congress that would include "any other covert links of the C.I.A. with national organizations, foundations, or other institutions whose purposes may thereby have been perverted."

The churchmen's statement charged that the intelligence agency "has exceeded the bounds of propriety" and has raised the "disastrous" possibility that "over the next several years the credibility of all United States persons traveling, stationed or studying overseas may be subject to question by people of the most countries."

The student leaders called a meeting with newsmen to announce plans to revive the association following the internal controversy caused by the disclosure of its link with the intelligence agency.

The student officers discussed the prospects obtaining "untainted" foundation and private funds to replace the agency subsidies, which were reported to have amounted to up to 80 per cent of the association's \$800,000-a-year budget in recent years.

But the association faces difficulties. One of them, Mr. Groves said, is a \$39,000 current operating deficit.

The Swarthmore College Student Council sent Mr. Groves a letter declaring that it had voted unanimously to suspend payment of affiliation dues for the rest of the year "pending a complete investigation of N.S.A.'s effectiveness on our campus and its involvement with the Central Intelligence Agency."