

Hoover Hits Agitation On Campus

By J. EDGAR HOOVER
Director, Federal Bureau of
Investigation

WASHINGTON (UPI) — On our college and university campuses today are a variety of Old Left and New Left type groups which are eager to foment student unrest and disruption. These groups despite their public claims, are not interested in legitimate reform, either for the campus or the nation. Rather, they have as an aim agitation, disruption and trouble.

We must remember, however, that these extremists represent a minority of our college students. The 1960s have been an age of protest, of skepticism, of asking vital questions about our society. Our colleges have produced an inquiring generation, young people who are sincerely and deeply concerned about problems which arise from a complex, industrialized, urban society. We want this questioning process to continue. We should be thankful for the sophisticated, intelligent, poised generation of young people now coming of age.

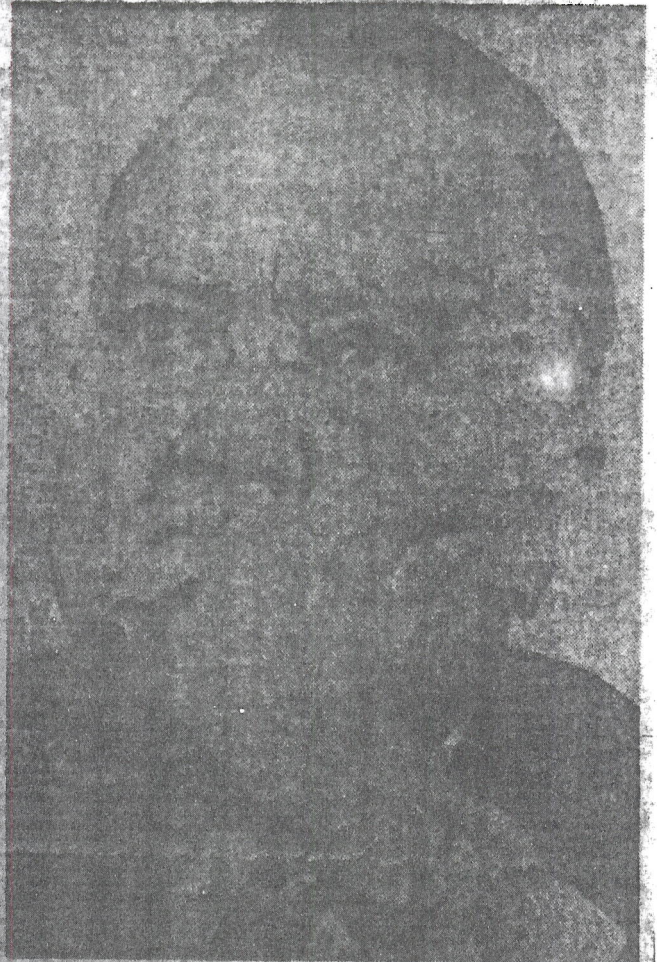
Adults have a special obligation to establish and maintain a dialogue with the rising generation. All too frequently the FBI find a complete lack of communication between parents and young people about the really serious issues of life. Yes, there is talk about a new car or a vacation trip, but a zingly little about some of the basic problems which concern young

people today (the war in Vietnam, the draft, race relations, poverty). Often a parent and child violently disagree — and each goes his own way, preventing the mutual interchange of opinions. The generation gap is, to a large extent, a communication gap.

In discussing these extremist groups, we must be careful of our facts and not indiscriminately label those whom we do not personally like or whose opinions are unpopular as extremists. We must remember that many moderate students are also protesting about key issues of the day. We should not label these legitimate protests as "extremism" and therefore dismiss them from consideration. The genuine, hard core radical on campus must be distinguished from the legitimate protester.

We must remember that the way to combat extremism is not by counter-extremism. In other words, one of the dangers of extremism on campuses is that it will engender anti-democratic vigilante and illegal actions against this minority. These extremists can and must be handled under due process of law. There is no room either on or off campus for an anti-democratic backlash.

Society must take seriously its own weaknesses and work to remedy them, promptly, effectively and fairly. Young people very rightfully hate hy-



HOOVER SAYS MINORITY CAUSES TROUBLE
"Old and new leftists merely agitate."—(AP)

poetry and sham. The best way to counteract extremism of any kind is through a healthy society with self-creative energies working for constant improvement.

Theodore Roosevelt said: "Much has been given us, and much will rightfully be expected from us. We have duties to others and duties to

ourselves; and we can shirk neither."

American must face up to the challenge of extremism — lest, step by step, the foundations of law are eroded to the detriment of all of us. No cement more durable to hold together a free society has ever been found than the law and all the majesty it represents.