

QUEENS SPEAKER ANGERS PARENTS

Attack on U.S. Democracy
Disrupts Commencement

By M. S. HANDLER

Dr. Howard Zinn, a long-time activist in the civil rights and peace movements, speaking yesterday at the 46th commencement of Queens College, was heard with mixed feelings when he made a bitter attack on the war in Vietnam and the "paraphernalia" and "rigamarole" of the democratic process in the United States.

Many of the 4,470 degree recipients sitting in the center of Madison Garden applauded Dr. Zinn, sometimes with enthusiasm, but most of the parents and guests scowled as the Boston University professor became more bitter, particularly when he dealt with democratic processes in the United States.

Adults began to shout from various parts of the stands, and although most of their comments could not be heard above the general noise, their hostility was apparent. One man shouted "back to Leningrad, back to Moscow!" The man's wife pleaded with him to remain quiet but the infuriated guest said angrily, "Enough is enough."

Plea for End to Violence

Dr. Zinn was invited to address the commencement by the officers of the senior class and a group named the Free University Committee. Few of the graduates did not join in the occasional applause that greeted his attacks on United States domestic and foreign policy and on American leaders.

However, Sandra Klebanoff, president of the senior class, received a general ovation for her brief statement in which she pleaded with students to renounce the use of violence to achieve their ends.

"It is time for us," Miss Klebanoff said, "to reorganize the peace movement, to disavow any connection with violent factions, to repudiate our own violence in the manner in which we condemn that of the government. When that is done we will deserve respect; we will be

able to recruit a larger following; we will not have a repetition of a Kent or Jackson State."

Dr. Zinn contended that United States authorities behaved like authorities elsewhere—when people ask too many questions they are either jailed or shot.

"One of the great myths in American colleges is the democratic process," he said. "But," he went on, "it is the same in the old days when kings and small groups of advisers made war.

"But, lately," he said, "young people have come to recognize the fraudulent nature of this rigamarole. Democracy means daily participation and not entering the confessional voting booth once every two or four years."

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