

Colleges Urged to Develop Better Links to Students

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WASHINGTON, April 25—A private study group said today that colleges and universities should develop better lines of communication among students, faculty members, administrators and trustees to ease campus unrest.

This was a basic theme of a report issued by the Special Committee on Campus Tension, which was established last fall by the American Council on Education.

The committee was headed by Sol M. Linowitz, the former Ambassador to the Organization of American States. Its members included five present or former college presidents, four

student leaders, four faculty members, a university trustee and four influential private citizens.

The study was probably the most thorough ever conducted of campus unrest, which the committee said "may surpass" this year "that of the record year, 1968-69."

"The academic community today," the committee reported, "is a community divided," adding:

"The students, the faculty, the administrators, the trustees each have their deep discontents about the current func-

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tioning of colleges and universities.

"As often as not, these discontents have to do with the behavior and attitudes—or perceived behavior and attitudes—of one or more of the other constituents."

The committee declared that "almost everyone agrees that change is necessary in higher education" and that "present campus tensions provide an opportunity and an impetus for some overdue reforms."

Student Power and War

The committee found that the major incidents of student disruption were over two key issues: student power and the war in Vietnam.

On the latter issue, the committee said, "Until the nation ceases to force young men to fight in a war they believe unjust, a major source of campus tensions will remain."

On the general problem of relationships the committee said: "Every attempt must be made to establish effective communications so that policy questions and grievances can be aired by the campus community."

Institutional policies and the processes of governance "must be seen by all major groups concerned as essentially fair."

This might be accomplished, the committee said, by establishing joint administration-faculty-student committees, perhaps even "permanent legislative assemblies."

It recommended that institutions re-examine existing disciplines, see faculty members from more diverse backgrounds, eliminate sex discrimination and experiment with new, tradition-breaking forms of education.

General Recommendations

The committee also urged the following:

¶That Federal aid to colleges and universities be increased.

¶That public officials refrain from making "repressive and provocative pronouncements," which, the committee said, "have the same inflammatory

effect that extremist rhetoric has on the campus."

After issuing the report, Mr. Linowitz said at a news conference that students had told him they felt remarks by Vice President Agnew and Gov. Ronald Reagan of California had had such inflammatory effects.

¶That students be given "substantial autonomy" nonacademic activities and be allowed to participate in curriculum policy.

¶That university disciplinary proceedings be made formal and specific channels be opened through which students could register grievances.

¶That greater recognition be accorded teaching, as opposed to publishing and research in faculty hiring, promoting, paying and tenure.

¶That traditional doctoral programs be reappraised with separate programs perhaps being devised for persons who want to concentrate on teaching rather than research.

¶That administrators—presidents and deans—be hired for fixed terms of office.

¶That university presidents become more accessible to students and teachers and "take positive steps to explain their plans and policies to the appropriate constituencies."

¶That many administrators initiate a rulebook housecleaning to eliminate rules that have outlived their usefulness.

¶That college presidents develop with local authorities a specific strategy for handling disturbances.

50 Campuses Visited

¶That the process of selecting trustees be changed to include "greater diversity of age, occupation and other salient individual characteristics that might broaden horizons and present other points of view."

To compile the report, committee members or their staff visited more than 50 campuses and conducted dozens of interviews at each. Hundreds of background or position papers were filed by persons knowledgeable about campus problems, and case studies were made of several institutions

that had experienced difficulties.

Students, the committee found, were concerned about the "hypocrisy" and "corruption" in the American society, especially as manifested in the war. They found the universities unresponsive to the problems of the society and indifferent to and neglectful of student needs.

The established, senior faculty members gave what the committee termed the most "conservative responses to university problems." But if they were satisfied with the status quo and tended to resent campus disturbances, the junior faculty often helped plan the demonstrations.

Mr. Linowitz, the committee chairman, was chairman of the board of the Xerox Corporation before joining the Johnson Administration. He is a trustee of Hamilton College, the University of Rochester and Cornell. Other members of the committee were:

Morris B. Abram, former president of Brandeis University.

Ralph S. Brown Jr., professor of law, Yale University, and president, American Association of University Professors.

George Bunn, professor of law, University of Wisconsin.

Robben W. Fleming, president of University of Michigan.

William T. Gossett, former president of the American Bar Association.

Alexander Heard, chancellor, Vanderbilt University.

Vivian W. Henderson, president, Clark College.

Mrs. Richard Inskeep, trustee, Indiana University.

Bill D. Moyers, publisher, Newsday. Charles Palmer, president, National Student Association.

Joseph Rhodes, junior fellow, Harvard University.

John Searle, professor of philosophy, University of California, Berkeley.

Patrick Shea, president, associated students, Stanford University.

M. Brewster Smith, professor of psychology, University of Chicago.

Richard L. von Ende, graduate fellow and vice chairman, executive committee, University of Kansas.

Charles E. Young, chancellor, University of California, Los Angeles.

Whitney Young, executive director, National Urban League.