

Reforms for NSA

Many of the fears expressed last spring by opponents of student body affiliation with the National Student Association (NSA) should have been dispelled by the significant structural reforms in the organization. The changes came at the 16th annual congress held at Indiana University in August. The University sent six delegates to the national confab. Reforms were instituted to give the individual delegates at the congress exclusive power to pass resolutions. Resolutions include policy statements reflecting the views of the American student community. As well as putting policy statements in the hands of the delegates, the organization abolished its National Executive Committee, which was previously the target of considerable criticism for oligarchical methods.

Previously the National Executive Committee considered all legislation not taken up by the full plenary session of Congress. The NEC was replaced by two other bodies: the National Supervisory Board, which handles administrative procedures during the year, and the Congress Steering Committee, a council of regional chairmen, designed to plan the national congress. The reforms are progressive and appear to align the organization with democratic procedures occasionally lacking in the past.

Students attending the congress reported that a mood of moderate liberalism prevailed during the sessions in contrast to NSA opponents' charges of left wing extremism. NSA President Dennis Shaul assailed both left wing and right wing extremists and made it clear that "we have no doubt that the people on the far left and far right have every right to be present here; they

have every right to present their case. But let there be no doubt by anyone here nor by anyone representing these groups that this Association (NSA) has its own integrity and will not give it up without a fight."

NSA resolutions were straightforward expressions of support for academic freedom, civil rights and opposition of communist aggression. The organization expressed support for the Washington March held Aug. 28 (at the time of the congress), voiced support for Vietnamese students in their objections to the Diem regime, condemned Chinese invasion of India and Portuguese policies toward African territories. Of most direct concern to university students were resolutions condemning five universities for violations of academic freedom. Two schools, Ohio State and Washington, were cited for having speaker bans imposed barring communists. State University of New York was mentioned in regard to a court injunction issued against Dr. Aptheker, a Communist theorist, to prevent him from speaking there. Catholic University was cited for withdrawing invitations to five liberal Catholic theologians for fear of taking a stand on the coming Ecumenical Council. Opposition was also expressed to Northwestern University's decision not to allow American Nazi George Lincoln Rockwell to address a dormitory group.

The congress was an opportunity for students to speak out on important national and international issues and hopefully for delegates to relate them to their individual campuses. We are encouraged with University participation in the congress. We hope that ideas from the congress will be utilized by the delegates in planning NSA programs on the campus.

NSA Co-ordinator Reports

NSA National Congress Student Viewpoint Forum

A positive view of the National Student Association in contrast to a negative view presented last week by Hank Courtney, NSA delegate, is featured in this column. Writer Gerald Rust was elected as an NSA delegate last spring. He ran on a non-committal platform and pledged to present an objective report. Rust was recently appointed campus NSA coordinator.

By GERALD RUST
University NSA Coordinator

In order to support the National Student Association one must first believe in having a National Student Association. One must believe in the right of United States college students to speak as one voice on important campus, national, and international issues. One must believe that the "Ivory Tower" role of the student has changed—to that of a student who has the right and the obligation to assume a much more complex role within the whole society.

Explores Principles

Operating under the assumption that students at the University believe in these principles, I want to reply to the three major charges brought against NSA: that it is unrepresentative, that it is undemocratic, that it is too "liberal."

In the first place I agree in part to the charge that NSA is unrepresentative. I agree simply because there are only 380 schools in the Association out of 2000 eligible members. I feel that this is in part due to the fact that NSA is relatively young—only sixteen years old. Because of various misconceptions and faults within the organization it has simply not yet acquired the membership to enable it to become absolutely representative although I don't believe it is too far from being representative of college student opinion as I will point out. I would ask one question: Do you give up membership in something that could be very worthwhile because it has not yet evolved into perfection (if that could be)?

Not Undemocratic

In the second place in regard to the charge that NSA is undemocratic I feel this is completely false. To me democracy is having the right to speak and the right to vote. No delegate was ever denied either of these rights at the congress. I challenge anyone to refute this statement. Furthermore, if anyone could once see the seemingly never-ending process that legislation must go through to be passed at the congress, (subcommittee, committee, congress—with plenty of checks and balances), I am sure he would be convinced of the democracy in practice.

In the third place it has been said that NSA is too liberal. For whom, the conservatives? I believe so. Likewise, I heard many liberals say it is too conservative.

Looking back on the policies and resolutions that came out of the congress I find that it was moderate legislation. The legislation that came out of the congress did not represent one extreme point of view or the other, but is worthy of being called "representative" of United States student opinion.

National Officers Liberal

Finally, a word should be said about the election of national officers. It has not been pointed out that an avowed conservative, Robert Bernstein, from Cornell, ran for NSA coordinators conference (NSACC) chairman and was defeated by only one vote. Does this reflect a liberal tendency on the part of the delegates? In the election of president on the final night, Bruce Rappaport, the liberal candidate from Chicago, ran against Steve Shelby, a conservative student body president from Colby College in Maine, and Greg Gallo, former student body president from Wisconsin, who I would term a moderate.

It is true that Rappaport polled many more votes than Shelby, however, the significant thing was that the delegates rejected both extremists on the first ballot. Gallo was elected president of NSA.

In conclusion, I would recognize faults in the NSA. I don't nor does anyone subscribe to all NSA policies. When I went to the congress I was neither for nor against continued membership. I would now declare myself in favor of retaining membership.

I believe the University can contribute to NSA as well as benefit. NSA is a solid organization and will someday be a great one. I believe we should remain in and help to mold the NSA—not tear it down.

An Outgrown Teddy Bear?

We suggest that proponents of the project to put another "O" on Skinner's Butte add this material to their bibliography:

"Then, later we talked about the "O" on Skinner's Butte. As we mentioned, some Oregon State University boys, using cutting torches and brute strength, had managed to wrest the giant steel letter from its concrete moorings one foggy pre-dawn morning. They heaved it onto a truck and stole away into the breaking dawn. It had been a great day for Mighty Oregon State.

"What happened next," you asked, your appetite obviously whetted for anecdotes about Old Oregon. "Did the University of Oregon students retaliate by trying to steal Terry Baker?"

"Of course not," we said with mock impatience. "Nothing happened."

And you seemed disappointed. "Nothing?"

Nothing at all?"

It was a superb case of intellectual one-upmanship, we tried to explain. University of Oregon students didn't want their "O" back. Suddenly, almost overnight, they were through with it, like a child who has suddenly outgrown a once-beloved teddy bear. If anything, Oregon students were sympathetic with the plight of poor Corvallis waifs who now were stuck with a monstrous pile of scrap steel. But those O.S.U. kids are smart; they probably sold it to a junk dealer.

I thought I saw expressions of understanding. I could be wrong. "Did you conclude that college education is for grown ups."

from "The Marginal Student"
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Jules Feiffer

SO I WAS IN LOVE WITH THIS BOY WHO I WAS TWO YEARS OLDER THAN AND HE WANTED TO GET MARRIED BUT HE WAS STILL MARRIED TO HIS FIRST WIFE. SO I WROTE TO DEAR ABBY.



AND DEAR ABBY SAID I COULDN'T.



SO WE BROKE OFF. TWO YEARS LATER I FELL IN LOVE WITH AN ELDERLY MAN WITH A DAUGHTER MY AGE WHO DIDN'T WANT US TO GET MARRIED. SO I WROTE TO ANN LANDERS.



AND ANN LANDERS SAID IT WAS UNWISE.



SO WE BROKE OFF. FIVE YEARS LATER I MET A MAN MY AGE EXACTLY AND WE FELL IN LOVE BUT HE CAME FROM A DIFFERENT FAITH. SO I WROTE TO DR. FRANZBLAU.



DR. FRANZBLAU WAS LIVID AGAINST IT.



SO NOW I'M NEARLY SIXTY. I'M ALONE ALL THE TIME AND DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH MYSELF. SO I WROTE AND ASKED DR. BROTHERS.



SHE SAID I SHOULD GET OUT AND MEET PEOPLE.

