

Bennett speech

16 FEB 1967

I should like to call to your attention the James Reston article in the New York Times of 15 February. I believe it will help in placing in proper perspective the controversy over the National Student Association. As the cold war cools off, we tend to forget the Stalin era during which the Soviets were engaged in an all out effort to dominate the institutions of the free world and through them the free world itself. Student organizations in much of the world are a powerful political force; we have all witnessed the phenomenon of governments in Latin America and other areas of the world which have been overthrown by student actions. You can be assured that the Soviet Union recognized the political power lodged in student organizations - the huge sums they spent and are spending in their attempt to control the youth of the world attest to this.

Faced with an opposition to whom funds were nearly limitless, U.S. student leaders of the time sought appropriate assistance and got it - not the huge sums which would have been needed to match the Soviet effort, but at least enough to maintain their presence on the international scene and to resist the total Soviet take-over of their organizations. As a former member of the National Student Association, I applaud their courage in doing what needed to be done.

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