



Education

Bloody hands at Cor

By ERIK BERT

The Cornell University board of trustees issued a statement recently urging university president James A. Perkins to be "firm" and to make an "appropriate response" to the black students there.

The statement was occasioned by the seizure of Willard Straight Hall at Cornell by a group of armed black students on April 19 and 20.

There is one problem with the statement. The trustees, come into court with dirty hands or, without stretching it too far, with bloody hands.

The trustees affirm, as among the governing standards of Cornell University, that "all students and faculty are guaranteed the right of free speech"; that "the university is not a sanctuary from the law."

That is less than true. Cornell University is a sanctuary in at least two respects.

First: Arthur Dean, chairman of Cornell University's board of trustees, is a trustee of Asia Foundation. And Asia Foundation was the recipient of CIA funds which were passed to it through the Benjamin Rosenthal Foundation, a CIA conduit.

Arthur Dean has been associated with the CIA on another level also. Dean has been a partner since 1929 in Sullivan and Cromwell, one of the biggest Big Business law firms.

When he got to Sullivan and Cromwell, he found there Allen Dulles who had joined the firm in 1926. They were both partners

of the firm from 1929 to 1951, for 22 years long enough to get acquainted. That year Dulles left to become deputy director of the CIA. Dulles stayed with the CIA for 10 years, as director during the last eight years. In 1961 he left to go back to Sullivan and Cromwell, as "of counsel." He found Arthur Dean there once more, as a trustee of the CIA-financed Asia Foundation.

Second: Cornell University is the sanctuary of the School of Industrial Relations.

Between 1961 and 1963 SIR received \$289,500 from the CIA. The money was transmitted from five CIA conduits, through the Marshall Foundation to SIR, to finance its "international labor training program."

The five conduits were the Beacon Foundation, the Boden Trust, the Price Foundation, the Edsel Foundation, and the Tower Foundation.

The advisory council of the school included four AFL-CIO leaders: Joseph A. Beirne, president of the Communication Workers of America; George Harrison, president emeritus, Railway Clerks Union; Lee W. Minton, president, Glass Bottle Blowers Association; and the late Michael Ross, then director of the AFL-CIO's foreign relations.

This being the cast of characters, let us return to the Cornell University trustees' statement of principles.

They declared that "duress, intimidation, violence and the threat of violence are inimical to the life of the university and unacceptable as expressions of dissent."

That sounds odd, coming from a group whose chairman has helped to operate the CIA web.

It was from another part of that web that the Bay of Pigs operation was launched in 1961, an operation which makes the Willard Straight Hall incident look like a smorgasbord. Who, indeed, are they to cry out: "duress, intimidation, violence!"?

They decry "disruption and the tactics of terror," as though they had forgotten about the military intervention in Guatemala, conducted by the CIA in 1954 when Dean's partner and friend, Dulles, was running the show.

They call out for "orderly change." Would they call the CIA's 1953 operation in Iran an "orderly operation"?

They hold high the banner of "free speech" and "freedom to teach." Is that what the CIA intervention in Bolivia was all about?

They avow the "principle of freedom with responsibility." Is that really what the CIA has been trying to assure in its sector of the Vietnam depredation?

... Whatever the verdict on the Willard Straight Hall episode, the thing is for sure the trustees have no moral right to participate in the discussion.

The smell of the CIA hangs on to Cornell.