

History Prof. Reveals Past CIA Membership

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A professor emeritus of history here disclosed yesterday that he had been a member of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) from 1951 to 1953.

Raymond J. Sontag, in a letter

to the Ice Box in today's Daily Californian, wrote that when he learned some years ago about the CIA's subsidization of the National Student Association (NSA) his "initial reaction was strongly negative."

"But I became slowly convinced that the necessary international activities of the NSA could not be carried out except by subsidy from the CIA," he said.

Sontag, a member of the Campus Rules Committee last year, also argued that the "CIA was the only government agency which could subsidize organizations such as the NSA without restricting or even ending their independence."

"Only CIA can subsidize without controlling, because only CIA has a budget which is not scrutinized, line by line, by Congress," he explained in the letter.

Sontag mentioned that if any other agency subsidized an organization which has members supporting student strikes or civil rights activities such as the NSA does—their budgets would be subject to extreme supervision by Congress. This could result in the restrictions on the freedom of organizations.

He also blasted Dan McIntosh, ASUC President, for stating that "the CIA duped students and used them as spies."

Sontag felt McIntosh was a bit hard on his colleagues as Sontag has known "many men in the CIA whose intelligence and moral strength was as great as that of Mr. McIntosh."

He said these men "simply believed that their country was worth serving, and that they could serve their country by working in the CIA."

"They were not then, and they are not now either, dupes or morally depraved. Neither, I suspect, were the NSA officers," he concluded.

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