

New Rochelle City Manager Assails Son's CIA Criticism

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New Rochelle's city manager today applauded a Columbia University student leader for criticizing the United States.

But Murray Fuerst, the city manager, said that John Fuerst, 22, showed "stupidity by comparing the Central Intelligence Agency to a dope ring."

"They are father and son. 'My only son,' the elder Fuerst said with pride. 'But he makes up for not having any other children.'"

The younger Fuerst is "spokesman" for the Students for a Democratic Society chapter at Columbia. The 150-member group's philosophy prohibits it from having leaders.

OFFICIALS TABOO

"People should run organizations, not organizations people," explained John Fuerst. The SDS believes that government is too important to be run by government officials.

The SDS, claiming 7,000 members nationally, is against the draft, against American policy in Viet Nam and against the CIA.

An SDS rally Monday brought 500 Columbia students face to face with university President Grayson Kirk. Fuerst demanded that CIA recruiters be barred from the campus.

Kirk refused, saying that CIA had as much right as any other organization or business firm to seek employees among students, and that value judgments should not be passed on recruiters.

GOING TOO FAR

Fuerst — the spokesman — then asked why dope rings should be prevented from recruiting at Columbia, if no value judgments were made.

Fuerst—the city manager—drew the line right there, in his admiration of Fuerst the spokesman.

"I agree with Homer that it is every free man's right, in peace and war, to speak his thoughts," the city manager said. "I agree with Senator William Fulbright that a citizen who criticizes this country is really paying it a tribute. It means the citizen hasn't given up on the country."

ring is, shall we say, odious. He's entitled to think for himself, entitled to his political beliefs. But I can't agree with the stupidity he showed after he has received such an extensive education."

'PART OF GROWTH'

Fuerst, who has been a government official in New Rochelle for 29 years and is a

Republican, to boot, said that he and his son have never argued about politics. But they do have some fairly deep philosophical discussions.

"I think all this is part of his natural growth," the father continued. "I am sure the experience is adding to his intellectual growth. I think he's a good citizen. I criticize the country myself—when I vote."

Fuerst said he agreed with Kirk that the CIA has a right to recruit Columbia students.

The recruiters set up office last week in the university's placement office. Most of those they interviewed were graduate students with whom they hoped to fill vacancies in military economic research, sociology, accounting and international relations posts.

The younger Fuerst said the SDS protest rested on three points.

"The CIA is illegally active, according to international law, in the affairs of foreign countries," he said. "We also are opposed to the policy the CIA represents—American policy in Viet Nam, primarily."

"The CIA acted illegally, to give an example, a few years ago when its agents contaminated a cargo of sugar en route to Cuba from the Soviet Union. When the Russian ship docked in Puerto Rico for repairs, the CIA ruined the sugar."

"We are also concerned about

getting a greater role in Columbia's administration for the students and faculty," spokesman Fuerst said. "The university opens its doors without using judgment. Its policy is one of non-decision."

The SDS, according to the younger Fuerst, "constantly searches for issues at every level—the preservation of fraternities, women in the dorms. People should have the right to decide what to do with their lives economically, socially, politically."

Fuerst, a senior, majors in history. He attended Hackley School in Tarrytown, then spent a year as an exchange student in England before coming to Columbia.

A classmate described him as "extremely intelligent. When he went to Hackley, we considered him a conservative."

The SDS is the most active of all the leftwing student organizations. Its national spokesmen admit to having Communists in the ranks, but not in "leadership" positions. The group was formed four years ago to accomplish in the North what other civil rights groups were attempting in the South.

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