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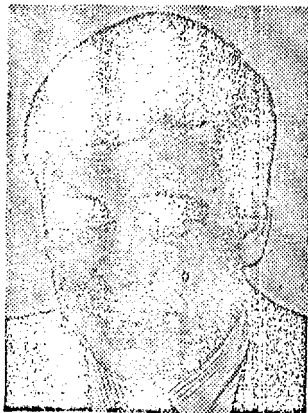
Nothing Illegal, Secretive About CIA Financing'

By MICHAEL PORTER

Akron lawyer Dennis Shaul, former president of the National Students Association, said Tuesday there was nothing illegal or secretive about the NSA accepting Central Intelligence Agency funds to help finance its international programs.

Shaul, 28, of 202 Twin Oaks rd. commented in the wake of Tuesday's reports that revealed the NSA-CIA link and the subsequent split between the two organizations.

"THIS method of disassociation from the CIA prejudices all past NSA programs and individuals," said Shaul. "If I were



DENNIS SHAUL
...worthy cause

still president I would continue to accept CIA funds because we were as influential in decision-making as they were."

Current NSA President Eugene Groves issued a statement Tuesday that no new CIA funds were being accepted for its \$825,000 annual budget.

The tie was terminated after about 15 years because, as an NSA spokesman put it, "it was decided the relationship was intolerable in a democratic society."

Shaul, a former Rhodes scholar and Harvard Law School graduate headed the NSA in 1962-1963 when the CIA donated about \$100,000 a year.

THIS money went toward financing foreign students visiting the United States and allowing American students to attend meetings, seminars, independence celebrations, you name it, abroad.

"We were competing against a number of well-financed Communist organizations," Shaul continued, "and our purpose was to present the American side of things as opposed to what the Communists said was the American view."

Shaul, like current president Groves, dismissed as completely inaccurate full page newspaper ads financed by Ramparts Magazine that said the "CIA has infiltrated and subverted the world of American student leaders over the past 15 years, and has used students to spy."

The ads were promoting a 10,000-word story upcoming in the magazine's March edition.

"We had a number of priority programs that needed financing, and as long as we had control of the programs, as long as we had the independence to set up our own programs, we viewed the CIA just as any funding source," said Shaul, a 1956 graduate of St. Vincent's High School and a 1960 graduate of Notre Dame.

He added that the Ford and Rockefeller foundations also contributed heavily to NSA, whose budget was in the neighborhood of \$500,000 at that time.

"WE FELT there was a fantastic opportunity to talk with young people from developing areas like Latin America and Africa who were attending Communist-sponsored Youth Festivals.

"Here also was a chance to present the opposite side during open meetings," Shaul continued. "At the eighth World Youth Festival in Helsinki in 1959, for example, we asked why did the Soviets resume open-air nuclear tests if they're so intent on peace. They had a hard time answering and that one question changed a lot of viewpoints."

SHAUL said the projects financed by the CIA were but a small part of the overall NSA program, and that Ramparts' advertisement "doesn't recognize the fact that we drew on many financial sources for many worthwhile efforts. The article implies a situation that never existed."

The NSA includes more than 300 colleges in the United States and is affiliated with 60 student groups overseas. Officials at University of Akron and Kent State University said there is no record of a chapter at either campus.

The NSA has shifted its emphasis from international to domestic programs, and according to Shaul this may be one of the reasons for NSA's decision regarding CIA financing.

"WE SOUGHT results rather than this Hamlet-like pose that has been struck on the pros and cons of government financing," said Shaul.

"There is a huge mass of people we're not getting to at the youth and student level, and the Communists are. These people from developing nations can be reached by receptive American students.

"This meeting between us is what the CIA was financing. And despite what you might read in Ramparts or elsewhere, the means were never illegitimate and the end was always worthy."

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