

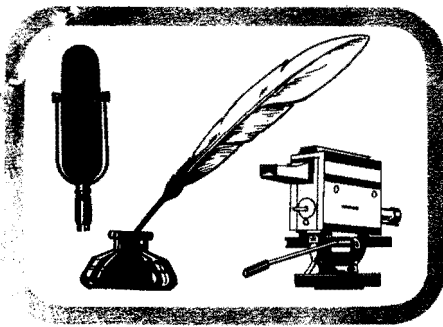
The original documents are located in Box D30, folder “Kiwanis Club, Portland, MI, September 1, 1970” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON--
Tuesday, September 1, 1970

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford before the Portland, Mich., Kiwanis Clu'

The colleges of America are in crisis. Many of them are torn by disruption from within and faced with the threat of intervention from without.

One fact looms larger than all the rest. The American public will not be satisfied until order is maintained on our college campuses.

Order can be maintained on campus--order with justice.

In cases where college authorities fail to do the job, outside civil authorities will move in--and properly so. Chaos, anarchy and blatant flouting of the law cannot be permitted on any college campus in this country.

There can be no sensible remedy for the problem without a sense of perspective, however.

First of all, it is important to recognize that less than 200 of our institutions of higher learning have been ripped by violence while some 400 others have suffered through some form of nonviolent disruption. There are, in fact, nearly 2,600 colleges and universities in America with a total enrollment of more than seven million students. The vast majority of these students neither take part in nor sympathize with campus violence.

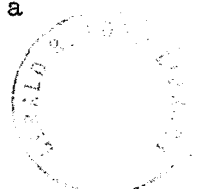
But we must be deeply concerned with the campus violence that does occur, since it not only tramples on the rights of non-violent students but results in property damage and occasionally even the loss of life.

We have become familiar with the confrontation politics of the campus--non-negotiable demands, strikes and boycotts, arson, wilful destruction of property, assault and battery, the occupation of buildings, interruption of classes, disruption of meetings, the barring of entrances to buildings, holding administrators captive. On a few campuses, it seems clear that revolutionaries seek nothing less than the destruction of the university.

Of course no university can avoid a confrontation with those who are determined to engage in revolutionary politics.

It is vital that our colleges and universities function in an orderly way. America cannot and will not tolerate the campus disruptions that have become a familiar happening in this country.

(more)



We will deal with these disruptions and we will maintain order on our campuses--but we must do so in a manner that does not interfere with the right of students to freely express their dissent. We must insure freedom of dissent while preserving order. These two goals are not incompatible--in fact, they must be linked.

Students must be allowed freedom of dissent so long as they do not interfere with the rights of others. But they must be dealt with firmly if they engage in wilful defamation, public obscenity, incitements to crime and any other civil or criminal misconduct.

Institutions of higher learning must enforce reasonable rules to protect the operation of the university from disruption and protect those using university facilities from harassment and coercion. Guest speakers who are known to engage in incitement to riot should not be allowed on campus. Students who sponsor a guest speaker while knowing he intends to violate the law should be firmly disciplined.

Neither should classroom disruptions be tolerated. A classroom should not be used as a forum for the politics of violence.

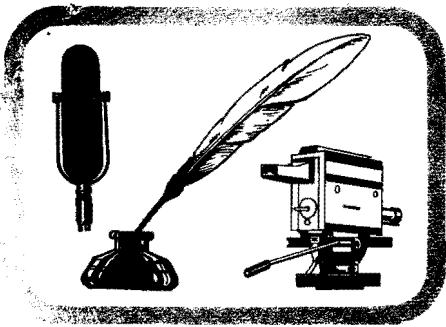
The universities themselves should properly have the primary responsibility for maintaining order on campus. If they are unable or unwilling to perform that function, outside intervention becomes not only necessary but mandatory.

The university should employ various disciplinary procedures, supported by the school's security personnel. After prompt and fair disciplinary hearings, effective sanctions should be imposed upon students guilty of misconduct. Fairness is fundamental to the maintenance of order, but in no case should flagrant violations of the law be condoned. To excuse one crime is to invite the commission of others.

University authorities must recognize that if they do not clean up their own house someone else will do it for them. If the university does not maintain order, the civil authorities will inevitably intervene.

There are circumstances in which intervention of the civil authorities may be required. This intervention may range from issuance of an injunction to selective arrests, the use of large numbers of police on campus, and civil suits for damages. The danger in asking the police to enter the campus in large numbers is that support for the radicals may spread among other students. Yet there are times when the university finds itself helpless to do otherwise.

There is no general rule for the handling of campus violence. Plans should be formulated between the university and the civil authorities to deal with it if it should occur--but the university should strive mightily to prevent such outbreaks. Not every disruption can be prevented but every disruption can be--and must be dealt with effectively. The American public will see to it that campus order is maintained



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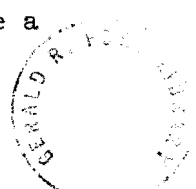
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