



Moderator  
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## Students Champion Lost Industry Ideals

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The most fruitful thing I can say to you about the student rebel is that you are just not getting the message. I say this because if you were listening carefully, you might find a lot more to agree with than you would believe. You might even find that Students for a Democratic Society and the NAM were in part saying the same things.

The key is that in the rhetoric and the reasoning of the rebels lies a fundamental commitment to the individual; a concern for the dignity of man as a whole and men in particular; and an unwillingness to leave everything to government.

I had thought that many of you shared this trust in the individual, and to his right to be part of the decision-making process. I had thought that this organization spent much of its time warning of the consequences of a too-powerful central authority for a system in which the individual is the supreme concern.

Well, that is what the rebel, in large measure, is saying. He is saying that the welfare state is an inadequate answer to the problems confronting the U.S. if all it does is to perpetuate a group dependent on handouts, cut off from real participation in society, without the tools to better himself.

He is saying that poverty projects will not work unless the poor themselves can recognize their needs and can begin to experience the sense of responsibility, dignity, and worth that comes with the process of making decisions about one's future.

He is saying that the student will not become truly educated unless the process ceases to be the inculcation of values and becomes, rather, the confrontation of values—a process which cannot be accomplished without controversy, and without the freedom to hear all those who would challenge the values of a society.

He is saying that in foreign policy as well as domestic, the citizen has a right and a duty to speak out against the official government line when he believes that line to be wrong—a belief that is rooted in the idea that individuals are fit to make important policy judgments, and not doomed to leave it all up to Washington.

The great majority of the discontented are not ideologues, Marxist or otherwise. They believe, quite simply, that the government and the men at the top have for too-long neglected the human element in attempting to solve society's ills.

Perhaps many of you have changed your mind, under the guiding hand of Consensus and Cost Plus Six Percent; perhaps the GNP has erased your concern with what might happen to people when they no longer are responsible for themselves. The student rebel, however, believes in democracy—not just in free speech, but in bringing into the political process all those left out by poverty, bigotry, and technology. And they are proving that belief and faith not by asking Washington to do it all, but by working as individuals with other individuals. Call that that radical if you will—I prefer to regard this as a belief in the dignity of man: a belief I hope many of you still may share. □