

BUNDY ON THE SOAPBOX WITH BURTON AND BANIGAN

McGeorge Bundy, president of the Ford Foundation and U.S. presidential adviser, was on campus last week, speaking to students at a formal dinner in Founders College.

Richard Banigan (F III) and Roger Barton (F III) interviewed Mr. Bundy for Excalibur.

EXCALIBUR: How much money does the Ford Foundation have?

BUNDY: The Ford Foundation has assets of \$3 billion. Its income on that is \$150 million annually.

Two hundred million a year goes out on programs, our largest single overseas project in national terms being India, to which we give \$8 million annually. This, however, works out to only 20 cents per capita. Because a 20 cent dole would provide very little aid to an Indian, grants are given for large-scale programs such as populations studies.

But the Ford Foundation is really a drop in the bucket compared to the U.S. federal government in terms of, for example, education. In this area alone the federal government spends \$15 billion per year.

Still, we are the largest private charitable organization in

the world. Despite this only one out of ten worthy projects can possibly receive aid. Our major activity is saying "NO", for we are flooded with requests.

EXCALIBUR: The Ford Foundation has just made a large donation to Oxford University. Would it be possible for the Ford Foundation to make grants to universities closer to the American border?

BUNDY: There would be no obstacle--in principle. The Oxford grant was for a new graduate science building. It matched the grant of Sir Isaac Wolfson, a British businessman.

EXCALIBUR: In particular, could the Ford Foundation have supported a project like McGill University's High Altitude Research Program (HARP), which involved shooting artificial satellites out of a cannon? Because of lack of funds, this whole project was turned over to an American university.

BUNDY: I know of no representation about this program made to the Ford Foundation. We don't normally support scientific ventures, leaving that, instead, to the government.

The Ford Foundation would not have supported HARP just to keep it on one side of the border or the other--national borders are not a consideration in our granting funds.

In other words, the financial setback in this case would be taken into consideration if the grant were requested, but national ownership would not be an issue. If the project is in danger of being dropped altogether, the Ford Foundation would consider supporting it.

EXCALIBUR: How do you see the role of both the government to the intellectual and the intellectual in government?

BUNDY: Government has placed a certain amount of pressure on intellectuals, for example, space scientists are under a certain amount of government pressure to follow a certain direction in space research.

There is a great deal of opportunity for the intellectual in government, and we must make use of those capable of using their minds to solving the problems of society. However, in the US the general public fluctuates in its trust of intellectuals in power.

EXCALIBUR: Is there any less intellectualizing of governmental problems in the present US federal administration than in the last?

BUNDY: Three secretaries of state from President Kennedy's "brain trust", including Robert MacNamara, are still there. The amount of professors per square department has remained about the same, particularly in the defense department.

However, the Kennedy style of intellectual--articulate, book-writing--is now absent.

EXCALIBUR: What do you think of people who ask you the question: "What was Kennedy really like?"

BUNDY: It's interesting that you should ask that question because it is a question an American would never ask.

There's a certain degree of objectivity about your position that Americans don't have. To the European way of thinking, the assassination was a plot. Americans prefer to think of it

as an accident. To me it was meaningless, and Oswald himself has no historical significance.

I saw Kennedy as a man with zest, wit, and adventure, who had an enormous appeal to young people. If there is a Kennedy myth it is a predictable, expectable, natural idealization considering the great amount of accomplishment of the man, the spirit of adventure he engendered and the tragic ending he suffered.

EXCALIBUR: Do you have a personal solution to the problem in the Middle East?

BUNDY: No. (Emphatically). There is no solution for even the foreseeable future. The fact that there is no actual shooting right now is a sort of solution for the time being.

There can be no peace in the ordinary political sense. It's not a question of politics, for it is fundamental in the Arab world that Israel has no right to exist.

The de facto situation is that Israel is the major military power in the area, and that the US is committed to the existence of a free and independent Israel. American public opinion is solidly behind this point of view.

EXCALIBUR: You were appointed special adviser to the Middle East. What do you as an intellectual do to formulate a theoretical analysis with which to make sense of data from various inform. networks? In addition, I'll put to you the limiting case:



McGEORGE BUNDY

How would you analyze China?

BUNDY: Approach major authorities (historians, literary people, artists) to formulate a point of view. The more we know about the past 20 years of Mao's regime, the better. But it's still a fragmentary picture. We have more information than what we get from the CIA.

In Washington there is a veritable army of academics analyzing newspapers, wall posters, and correspondence from Peking, Hong Kong and elsewhere. This makes it possible for government authorities to systematize events, but in the case of China, the limits of what you know come early in the game.

EXCALIBUR: Is there a phobia about China in the United States?

BUNDY: No, there is no phobia in government circles. Dean Rusk's recent speech, in which he used the phrase "yellow peril" was an unfortunate slip. There has been an attempt throughout government circles to de-escalate the term (which was once used by the late President Kennedy).

Hanoi is the "other side" in the Vietnam war, but China is a major consideration in decision-making. Both the U.S. and China use "strategic caution" today.

Even though China is violently vocal, both countries are cautious in their moves--China is not about to pick a war with the U.S.



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