

Political Leaders Eye Campuses As Possible Base Of Support--U. President

Iowa City, Ia. - University of Iowa President Howard R. Bowen recently declared that he is not in sympathy with what he described as a trend toward turning university campuses into centers of broad political action.

"It is quite evident that some political leaders are eyeing the campus as a possible base of support, and equally evident that some students and professors would like to carry the university into a political arena," he said.

But, said the U of I president, a university finds its influence through the power of ideas, not through overt political action. "The university as a corporate body is neither Hawk nor Dove, Democratic nor Republican, socialist nor capitalist, segregationist nor integrationist. It is not

a parliament or a political party or a pressure group."

He warned that a university might lose its intellectual power, its integrity and its credibility if the ability to function with objectivity and detachment were undermined through political activity.

"I admit that the distinctions between the university as a corporate entity, its professors and students and searchers for the truth, and its professors and students as citizens are subtle and difficult to apply in practice," he continued, "yet it is only as the university is meticulous in its regard for these distinctions that it will retain its real power, which is as a source of ideas."

A university has its own ethic

to defend, President Bowen said, and it is an ethic of freedom of thought and speech, the right to be heard, the obligation to seek and report the truth regardless of consequences, the evaluation of persons solely on the basis of character and performance, the judgment of scholarly and artistic work by peers, the avoidance of plagiarism, and the promotion of high standards in intellectual and aesthetic matters.

"It is the simple fact of life that the university, if it is to be loyal to its mission, will receive criticism," President Bowen said. He explained that there is criticism because universities are too "theoretical" and do not serve immediate purposes as represented by the Pentagon, private

business, and local government; but at the same time others charge that universities have "sold out" to the "establishment."

Meanwhile, he said, the univer-

sity is also criticized simultaneously both for being too critical of contemporary society and for being too supportive of existing institutions and policies.

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