

A Student-Professor Relationship

P: Professor S: Student

- P. Sorry to see that the CIA demonstration didn't work out as planned.
- S. It wasn't a demonstration. It was an attempt to shut off the CIA interviewer and if some fence-sitting liberals over 30 like you had been there it could have been more effective.
- P. We do care and are concerned but this kind of political activism is not our thing" as you younger people term it. Besides, the CIA should be here and so should every other employer or organization which is primarily for students' use or composed of students.
- S. Rights and privacy and these kinds of freedom are irrelevant -you old guys got to get it through your heads that to fight the whole corrupt System POWER is the only answer--we can't vote the CIA away, or do anything but use power and coercion to stop it.
- P. You've learned your lessons very well, haven't you? It's just that kind of righteousness and benevolent power-grabbing that you hate in the CIA--personally assuming power to change something that is part of the government, but wrong and immoral in your view. It's not a very attractive group--the CIA--to me either, you know.
- S. What's wrong with power? We need it--the whole colonialist-imperialist-capitalist-monopolistic free world is based on corruption and power! Do you want me to count on the ballot-box? I don't want to choose between two oranges--I want to be able to have an apple. You're giving me a lot of crap--to fight corrupt power by ballots or pickets--the only thing power understands is counter-power--not Gandhi or passive non-violence but power, as coercive as need be.
- P. Don't you feel that this power has to be appropriate to the "crime" or problem?
- S. No--we use all we can muster at any confrontation if we think it's worth the risks of being beaten or jailed by the cops. If we'd had 5,000 at Encina Hall, we could have done it. Or if machine guns would have worked we'd have done that. They'll have to learn the price to be paid.
- P. That's going overboard to stop one one CIA interviewer, isn't it?
- S. If we let that one come here there'll be more and more and more of them--like Dominoes--Dow and the rest--then we're really lost.

- P. Why not go to the source--the CIA Building outside Washington --and picket there?
- S. They're sending their men here --onto our campus--we've got to learn to fight them here--"the blue water of all the fish has to be poisoned." You saw what happened at Oakland and Wisconsin--they're brutal and spreading and they're immoral.
- P. So, legal non-coercive forms of protest simply aren't enough--
- S. Right--they're ineffective--power gets more attention and when we're organized enough and stronger we'll upset all the little apple carts and then the whole orchard will be spoiled too.
- P. You make the cops look bad, too, don't you? They just use more force when faced with coercive mobs.
- S. Anything we can do to them should be done--they're part of the System and have to be dealt with--probably more brutally than anytime before.
- P. I was just thinking that it's too bad we don't have a panel of four or five other people here to discuss these things so vital to us all--the CIA, Vietnam, Political power, civil rights --whatever else might come up.
- S. Baloney! You want a panel to cover all views and keep up the myth and fetish of an open mind and considering all sides of a problem. That's your way of life--no guts, no action, no strong beliefs you'll sacrifice anything for.
- P. You don't know the difference between indecision or apathy, and careful rational consideration of the problem, its possible solutions, and their short- and long-range consequences. When I was in college I felt about action much as you
- S. Well, you're not in college--but you are in a college and it's run by the System--big government, big corporations, lawyers, businessmen--the only people who have no voice are the students, the sweetly submissive faculty, and the greater Stanford community. You're still in it, but you don't realize it.
- P. You're trying to make me feel guilty- guilty for lack of a desire to usurp power by almost any means. I do read, I do think, I am sensitive and a humanist--and I vote and raise money for the Democratic Party. Isn't that enough?
- S. It might be at another point in history, but look what your liberal middle

class has produced violence, Korea, Vietnam, suppression of Negroes--you're the passive support of the political-military monolith which is going to isolate us here- with no friends anywhere, hating ourselves.

- P. Whatever else, our system has survived and been modified and there's a lot of political liberty here. There's no monolith--there is plenty of healthy debate and open disagreement. Even our President can call me a traitor for being ambivalent about Vietnam. I don't go for his violence any more than your force or coercion, so ~~am I~~ ^{not} I a free political animal?
- S. With your support the System could be toppled.... Then we....
- P. And with your opposition it apparently can't be moved very much--and where would you lead it anyway? Would you have everyone "do their thing" and live happily ever after? This is the most complex and technological age in history--we need some kind of organization, order, of continuity together with change. What kind of constructive alternative do you have?
- S. I don't have one yet -I'm mostly only sure that what I'm against is very corrupting and stultifying -leaving people dehumanized and alienated and demoralized--I'm for love, peace, humanity, and participatory democracy where we each have a voice and power and I'll kill to get it.
- P. You sound a little like Dean Rusk.
- S. But he's got all the power and....
- P. He thinks that ^{what} he's doing is for the good of the people of Vietnam and that he's right and moral and preventing aggression and has to use unfortunate means to "do his thing."
- S. But his System is big and impersonal and he's tragically wrongheaded--he thinks that we can step in anywhere in the world and do whatever we feel necessary to protect ourselves--he's got to be stopped.
- P. He might feel the same way about you.
- S. He might--the only thing he and I probably agree on is that you're a lousy middle of the roader--you won't join the American Legion and you won't actively protest in Oakland.
- P. Do we all have to go to the extreme to be human? I'm confused, frightened, and vulnerable to arguments--rational arguments, that is--from all sides on these matters. I keep informed and talk to all the people I can concerned with these issues--then I'll vote for the individuals and parties best expressing my view, or I may picket or march at a demonstration. I might even vote for a peace candidate if I think he can also run the country.

- S. Don't you think I've thought about all these things and the pros and cons, too? I then took a stand! I think I'm right and Dean Rusk is wrong and that you'll always be weak and undecided.
- P. You seem to feel powerless and I sure feel uncertain--maybe Dean Rusk does, too....
- S. But he's got the power and
- P. Yes, and maybe it's out of control, even his control, and he's just as scared as I am. By the way, are you scared?
- S. In many ways, no--through introspection and meditation I've freed myself from fears pounded into me--if I go to jail so what? Or if I'm killed by a cop in a demonstration, that's O.K. and I might even help our cause....
- P. Become a martyr or symbol like Malcolm X or someone like that?
- S. Yes- and don't give me any crap about me glorifying death in a moral combat like a statue to a soldier. This is different--my way would only be temporary--till the System is broken down and put back together again like Humpty-Dumpty. Then those of us who died for what we believed could be easily forgotten.
- P. Dead radicals aren't forgotten any more easily than dead soldiers, are they?
- S. I'm getting sick of your verbal tricks! Do you want to talk about Zen or Buddhism or democracy or the facts of the suffering we've inflicted on the poor Vietnamese people? I hate the war and I hate this country and I can tell you why and maybe make you act, too.
- P. We really haven't talked about many facts have we? Oh, by the way, I hate the war, too, but I do love this country.