

Tuition hike proposal draws national fire

The recent recommendation made by the Committee for Economic Development (CED) to double college tuition has drawn sharp criticism from Student National Education Assn. President Thomas Santesteban.

Speaking for 80,000 students on more than 1,000 college and University campuses across the nation, Santesteban said if the report is accepted it could be another example of the Nixon administration providing treatment without diagnosing the illness.

"Where were the students on the committee?" Santesteban asked. "It is difficult for me to understand how a committee can presume to make recommendations affecting the lives and pocketbooks of millions of students and never seek their opinions. The ineptness of this committee is evidenced by its shortsightedness in its failure to recognize today's educational needs."

Santesteban said he wanted to know what the chances are of students finishing their educations if tuitions are doubled or tripled. He said it would force students out of their planned courses of study with no consideration of loans already taken out for their future.

Students are the consumers of our national product, education, according to the North Arizona University at Flagstaff senior. He said he wanted to know why students weren't considered a vital part of the committee. Students, parents and educators are the only persons qualified to speak to these needs, he said.

"This commission spent \$400,000 on the study," he said. "I shudder to think how many students could have been educated for this amount of money. To get at the problem, the money should have been spent on legislative efforts to restructure the educational financing system."

He compared the proposal to the recent Russian wheat deal, questioning whether the commission had considered the far-reaching ramifications of its recommendation. He said he thought it appeared the American public would be asked to pay for an inequitable decision made by a few.

"Where are our vested rights as students?" he asked. "If we are concerned on a national level about the education of students today, let's put the entire program into perspective."

The report should be rejected according to Santesteban. Any future attempts to analyze and develop the financial structuring of education must include students, he said.

Regents meet today

NU's Board of Regents are scheduled to meet today at 8 a.m. in the University Systems Bldg., 3835 Holdrege.

The major item to be considered by the regents will be the University's 1974-75 capital construction budget request.



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