

...ing, say, in the heat of the controversy over these issues.

Q: It has been suggested that the student council maintains some sort of contact with the state legislature in Richmond. What is the nature of these contacts?

A: We have been able to establish a number of contacts which have helped us out in a number of cases this year, particularly in light of the Stone Commission for Higher Education. This commission is studying the possibility of establishing a ceiling level for out of state students, which would, of course, drastically affect the University of Virginia.

We have been able to establish a few contacts on the commission, people who are favorable to our point of view. We have in the past established some in terms of the expansion issue, on the appropriations committee. The chairman of the committee was very open and very interested in some of the problems we were having here in terms of expansion—housing, cafeteria, whatever. He was very interested and concerned and he used the appropriations committee to help us, I believe, to achieve a good compromise on the expansion issue in the future of the University Committee. I think that generally relations are going to improve between the legislature and students here at the University, because we do have a number of topics on which we can agree.

Q: In relation to these contacts are personal friendships involved or do members of the Council actually work with the legislature?

A: We do not have any formal liaison with the legislature. Whenever we see a topic of interest, whether it be the Stone Commission, or high pay for employees of the University, we try to contact people in the legislature who have the power to change whatever it is we want, or the power to act on what we want.

Q: What are the Council's contacts on the national level?

A: We belong to two national organizations, the National Student Association and the National Student Lobby. The NSA is a rather old organization, old in terms of us, anyway. It was established in the forties and concerns itself mainly with communication. Maintaining a reference library with information on all member campuses, takes stands on issues of interest to the campus, whether it be the Vietnam War or a particular education bill before Congress. The NSA is a non-exempt organization and therefore cannot lobby. That's where the NSL comes in. They are specifically a lobbying organization; they work within Congress to support or oppose particular pieces of legislation that affect students at the member campuses. They submit in referendum for

Sabato On Council

Expansion Q Should the University fling open its doors to expansion under pressure from the state legislature? Can it be allowed to grow until its academic standards are bruised and housing facilities are literally bursting at the seams? And how about appropriations—is the student council's appropriations committee pursuing the student body's interests by allocating mandatory student fees to controversial organizations? Are they constitutionally allowed to distribute these funds?

For expounded opinions on these questions from the student council's point of view, Council Vice President Larry Sabato was interviewed one

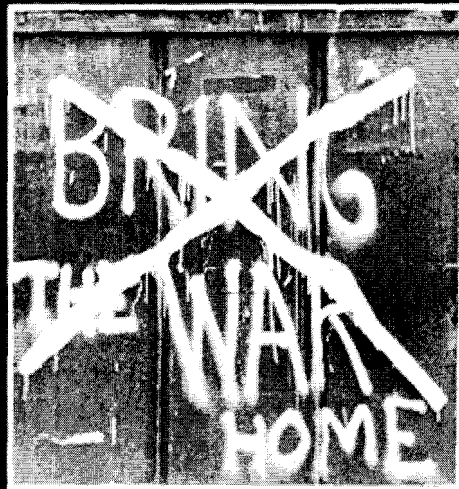
each spring a list of potential bills that will be coming up before Congress, to see what students are thinking about them, and then aggregate the results from each campus and determine which ones students are really interested in. Then they lobby accordingly. So the NSA and the NSL compliment each other. Right now we are more involved with the NSL and seem to have a very good relationship with them.

The Council seems to be taking more stands on political issues now than in the past. Do you agree with this and exactly what decides if the Council will take a stand on any one issue?

A vote of the council decides whether we take a stand on an issue or not and in the past four to five years the council has taken an increasing number of active stands on national issues. Of course this has provided the source for a lot of controversy and there are a number of people who feel that Council should not take stands on political issues, simply as a matter of principle. Certainly there are other members, usually more conservatively minded, who oppose these stands on political matters because usually they tend to be liberally oriented. . . It's a relatively new phenomenon, and I think it is a reaction to the old University. You have a few left-wingers being elected here and there who

really upset the applecart of the Council. It used to be a very 'clubby' organization where everyone met with the Dean and had a lunch every now and then. They talked about parking and such and were a closed group where everyone fit the mold. . . It's changed quite a bit since then.

Q: One of the most recent controversies involving the Student Council centers



around the allocation of the Student Activities Committee for the Gay Student Union. What threat to the future of the Student Activities fee does the pending appeal on this funding pose?

A: I indeed have a great fear that the GSU allocation, The Virginia Weekly case, and a number of others that I can see coming up might possibly affect the future of the fee itself. These could very possibly be used as court test cases to abolish

the fee and at the very least impose stricter guidelines on our appropriations. The Board of Visitors will almost definitely limit us.

Q: How would you compare the reasons for allocating funds to the GSU as opposed to the reasons against allocating funds to an organization such as the National ROTC Honor Guard?

A: I myself voted against the GSU allocation not because I opposed the allocation itself but because I feared it might result in the abolition of the student activities fee, which would be disastrous for most of the organizations on the grounds. The majority of council members felt that the GSU was not a social organization, and it is certainly not a political one, no more than the Legal Environmental Group or even The Cavalier Daily, which is very partisanly political in terms of its endorsements.

The Navy ROTC group is a 'departmental' organization. That is, it incorporates the purposes or function of one of the academic departments. They were directly connected with the department and are even under an official in the department. Therefore they did not qualify for appropriation. There are several unclear guidelines in relation to the 'departmental' classification and hopefully they can be clarified in the near future in order to prevent further controversy.

