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Senator Defends Dissent
In An Ordered Society

WASHINGTON (BP)--A prominent U. S. Senator defended the "right to dissent," declared that there are limits beyond which dissent should not go, and appealed to the citizenry to work hard enough to make "the system" work to correct injustices in American society.

Sen. Birch E. Bayh (D., Ind.) made his assertions in a speech to 100 Baptists leaders attending the 13th annual Religious Liberty Conference sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs here. He spoke on "dissent in an Ordered Society."

Sen. Bayh is a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and is chairman of its subcommittee on constitutional amendments.

A problem that exceeds all others in the nation at the present time, the Senator said, is the matter of violence, protest, dissent, law and order.

The right to dissent has been distorted by the campus riots, Sen. Bayh declared. Nevertheless, he continued, the present student generation is raising many valid questions "that we of the older generation have ignored."

Dissent and civil disobedience have had a long and honored history in American life, the senator said. "One of the first acts of civil disobedience in our history was the Boston Tea Party," he pointed out.

Sen. Bayh then told of major reforms in the nation that were achieved by "bloody protest." He mentioned the elimination of the sweat shops, child labor reforms, and the right of women to vote.

Asserting that "dissent is a real part of our society," Sen. Bayh warned that there are limits that should be observed. He cited Justice Holmes who said that "no one has a right to shout 'fire' in a crowded theater."

In reply to his own question--is there a place for unlawful dissent? --Sen. Bayh said, "I am inclined to say 'no.'" "While this is true in most circumstances, there are some grievances that would not have been rectified if it had not been for civil disobedience," he said.

The senator cautioned against extremes in protest. He deplored the burning of buildings and destruction of property. He pointed out that the success of the civil rights legislation in 1964 was due largely to the dedicated thousands of people who were willing to pay the price of their disobedience and to engage in "peaceful, religious, dissent."

In reply to the charge that peaceful dissent "within the system" does not produce results Sen. Bayh said that "if enough good people are willing to work hard enough the system will respond."

"What we need are students, leaders and others who are willing to enlist for the duration" until the problems and injustices are solved, he declared.

A major concern for the nation, the senator said, is the problem of "action and then reaction." He pointed to the riots in Chicago during the Democratic National Convention as symptomatic of the mood of the nation.

Deploping dissent that gets out of control, the senator observed that the more violent the protest becomes the less likely it is to succeed in its aims. This, he said, raises a real question for the nation, how do we put dissent in its practical perspective?

Senator Bayh closed his speech by appealing for support of his campaign to change the U. S. Constitution to provide for election of the President by a direct vote of the people rather than by an Electoral College.

"How can we have equality and responsibility when people do not vote directly for the President of the United States?" the senator asked.

William Jewell Acting
President Resigns Post

LIBERTY, Mo. (BP)--B. G. Olson, acting president of William Jewell College, here for the past year, has resigned to become director of special projects for Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

Olson, 40, assumes the newly-created position at Northwestern effective Nov. 1, but his resignation was effective Aug. 15.

He came to William Jewell College, a Baptist school, as executive vice-president in 1967, and has been acting president since the resignation of Guy Moore last August.

A new president for the school has not yet been named by the board of trustees.