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# Dean Cites 'Poor Judgment'

Seventh in a Series.

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Austin Bureau of The News

AUSTIN, Texas—Some of the prominent businessmen and educators who serve on the board of directors for the University of

Texas YMCA and YWCA view frequent criticism of the organization with mixed emotions.

But even when they feel a complaint about the Y's policy is justified, their hands are tied. The board handles fund-raising

and business matters but is limited to an advisory capacity on program and policy. Student leaders, working with Executive Secretary Frank L. Wright, mold the policy—which critics claim is too liberal and even left wing.

Dr. Arno Nowotny, dead of student life at the University, believes that the Y's controversial liberalism resulted, ironically, from its failure to adjust intelligently to progress.

"I have a very warm feeling for the Y," said Nowotny, who recently served one year on the board of directors but refused to accept a full 3-year term.

"When I was a student here," he said, "we didn't have a dean of men or a dean of student life. The Y is where you went to find a room—all of the approved boarding houses were registered there. So I got a room through the Y. The first job I got here was through the Y's employment service.

"The Y had a lot of things for students in those days that we now have in the Student Union," Nowotny continued. "What has happened here has happened all over the country. The University now has its own housing bureau and employment bureau as well as the Student Union. These things have caused the Y to change. It is grasping now for areas in which there is no one else.

"It has given an image to the outside that makes it look worse than it is," he said. "In a desire to find a program to replace what they've lost, they've shown poor judgment. They are not radical but idealistic.

"I think their public relations has been unfortunate. In a desire to have absolute freedom, they have given an erroneous impression. This was not very smart and not very mature. Why deliberately go out and make enemies when you can make friends? They've lost prestige—and their image has caused them

to lose prestige dollar-wise, too. Too many of their programs offer only one point of view. They ought to hear both sides.

"They have competition in the religious field, too," said Nowotny. "Ten denominations here have student centers near the campus — outstanding facilities for the students to use during their leisure time."

**NOWOTNY SAID** he tried to find out why the Y is getting fewer contributions these days from the faculty and the general public. (Wright denies that contributions have decreased).

"I got a universal answer," said Nowotny, "that the program is too one-sided. Many felt that the Y had outlived its usefulness. But I'm not going to go out and carry a torch to burn it down."

Hulon W. Black, a conservative businessman and member of the YMCA board, believes charges that the Y is too liberal are unjustified but that the Young Men's Christian Association should put more emphasis on the "C" in its name.

"A lot of people have accused the Y of being radical and pink," he said, "but that is partly because the glare of publicity is always directed at something sensational.

"The Y has been charged with being a bunch of left wingers. These kids are more liberal than us older folks—but that is traditional. A man may be radical in his 20's but he's usually conservative by the time he's 40.

"I don't agree with everything I don't agree with everything in my church, either. I feel there is a lot more on the credit side than on the debit side. I want to try to promote the credit side and remedy the debit side.

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"I DON'T think you can sell the present generation short," he added. "A lot of things they are doing are wrong—but you and I have made mistakes, too.

"If you show these youngsters both sides of every question I'm not worried about the outcome. And if they're not getting both sides, they ought to be. I think we ought to emphasize the Christian aspects. It's easy to stray away from dedication to principles. After all, this is a religious organization—not a political forum."

Most of the board members are so busy they seldom visit the Y except for board meetings.

On one point, they seem to be in complete agreement.

"There are not any Communists over there," said Nowotny. "I don't believe you could dig up one in a hundred years."

(Sunday: Have the Communists tried to infiltrate the Y?)