

Statement by Robert D. Clark  
President  
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The proposed legislation arises from an almost universal sense of urgent need for effective measures to control arson and bombings on campuses. Certainly I share the belief that action must be taken, as do the overwhelming majority of university administrators and faculty throughout the country, I am sure.

Certain features of the proposal, however, are so unprecedented and so fraught with undefined implication that I do not feel warranted in offering an opinion before I have had time to give it careful study. I trust that Congress will also proceed with caution. The times call for action, to be sure, but not for hasty and ill-considered action. One shouldn't fight fire by picking up the first available vessel containing liquid. The liquid might be gasoline.

Any legislation that provides for the direct intervention by the Federal Government into the fabric of higher education in this country is a most serious piece of business. If there is to be intervention, Congress will need to define the conditions most carefully. Historically, it has been its very independence from government that has been one of the greatest strengths of our educational system.