

The Cornell Daily Sun

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Lowi Views Growth of Kennedy's Power [ARTICLE]

Cornell Daily Sun, Volume LXXVIII, Issue 71, 11 January 1962, Page 1

Lowi Views Growth Of Kennedy's Power

By ELLEN J. RAUSEN

The most significant aspect of the first year of the Kennedy administration has been an attempt to make the President the "vortex of power" in government, according to Prof. Theodore Lowi of the Department of Government, who spoke in a lecture sponsored by the Young Democrats last night.

Kennedy has taken steps to reorganize the executive department so that he has more direct control over its agencies, stated Lowi. For example, legislative proposals from these agencies must receive

the approval of the Budget Bureau before going to Congress. Lowi noted that in this way, more power and blame for mistakes are centered on the President.

In Lowi's analysis, Kennedy emerges as a conservative on such issues as the expansion of the welfare state, and called liberal was the President's attitude toward civil rights. Lowi described Kennedy's position on defense as "overly careful, although not timid."

Lowi considered actions of the Kennedy administration in three broad areas: domestic, foreign-military and organizational. He noted that there have been no radical departures from established policy in any one of these. Lowi characterized the Kennedy proposals as "a little bolder," but essentially conservative in many areas.

By far the most challenging problem facing Kennedy is that of foreign aid and trade. Kennedy's

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PROF. THEODORE J. LOWI
Reviews Kennedy Policies

Prof. Views Exec. Power

proposed tariff program was called "fairly rational and politically sound."

Lowi considers the Agency for International Development Aid Kennedy's most exciting plan. Lowi sees it as an attempt to adapt the concept of the Marshall Plan to socially underdeveloped

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countries.

Lowi suggested that some proposals which have been or are being enacted under low political pressure may prove powerful tools for the President in the future. He cited the proposed retraining-rehabilitation program for technologically unemployed workers, speculating that the President may have in it an effective weapon against reactionary labor unions.

Similarly, Lowi foresees no legislative proposal on civil rights from the White House in the next few years. Existing executive power in

the contractor system should prove ample to make significant gains. Kennedy may use powers already his to include social requirements in the terms of government contract, according to Lowi.

Lowi warned against the "militarized civilian" in the White House and stated that Kennedy must create "the moral equivalent of in the foreign or military spheres. His necessary attempt to frighten influential leaders may have war" in order to get any action brought on some of the current "John Birchism."

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