9-18-1963

Contribution made to campus organization of politically interested students not tax deductible

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

So far as the Dean of Students at Montana State University is aware, a contribution made to a campus organization of politically interested students is not tax deductible. That was the word that went out today from the office of Dean A. C. Cogswell to officers of the campus chapter of Young Americans For Freedom.

In a recent letter from the YAF treasurer to members of that organization, it was stated that contributions to the YAF made through the University could be deducted. "Not so," said Cogswell, and advised the officers to "consult the Internal Revenue Bureau instead of taking somebody's guesswork."

The Dean explained that there is a special division of the University accounting office set up to handle campus organization finances. Any recognized campus group may have its bookkeeping done by the Student Accounting Office, which charges a fee for the service. Regularly, many of the fraternities and sororities at MSU do utilize the service, and around election time the young Democrats and young Republicans often use the accounting office.

He explained that this type of account is quite different from the tax exempt gift accounts made to the State of Montana or through the MSU Endowment Foundation where funds are received for specific educational purposes by the University.

However, he said, "The students who wrote and signed the letters were, at the worst, guilty of taking advice from persons not qualified to give it."

[Sign-off]