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editorials

The George Bush lecture

Crowd response to the lecture of George Bush last evening on the Kansas University campus indicated strong approval of the aims of the new director of the Central Intelligence Agency in conducting the foreign spying program of the United States government. The audience of nearly a thousand people for the Vickers lecture displayed sympathy for his earnest attempt to create an honorable intelligence-gathering program, and they appreciated his patience in dealing with dissidents.

MOST PEOPLE, but not all, recognize the importance of international spying in an era of world-wide distrust, ambition, greed and modern armament. They dislike invasion of privacy, but they realize the necessity for covert action if essential information is collected.

George Bush, distinguished war veteran, long-time public servant and former ambassador, impressed his listeners last night as a true patriot — a man who has deep appreciation for his country, one who is eager to be of service to his fellow nationals, and is highly capable. He is a tremendous worker; a doer instead of a talker. He definitely is not a bumbling politician.

The American privilege of freedom of expression received a good test as dissidents picketed the meeting and several "question askers" proceeded to give their own lectures before the floor microphones. About 50 foreign students, who obviously enjoy the American freedom of speech and dissension that are absent in many other countries, created a noisy greeting and goodbye for Mr. Bush and his party at the front door of Murphy Hall.

THE DIRECTOR'S PATIENCE was tested severely during his visit to the University campus, but he remained unruffled and he obviously grew in stature in the eyes of the great majority of his listeners.

Freedom is a great thing. Abuse of freedom, particularly by those who come from non-freedom countries, is something else.

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