

REFERENDUM

A student referendum on the future of the campus chapters of NFCCS and NSA will take place in two weeks. With this in mind, **TATLER** would emphatically recommend:

- 1) an immediate disassociation from NF
- 2) a temporary — but revised — participation in NSA.

Concerning NF, the main argument centers around the nature of the organization itself — just how effective can a federation of small, all-Catholic colleges be today? At a time when Catholics are trying to escape the narrow provincialism which characterized earlier years, support for the continuation of such a body is an anachronism. Students on Catholic college campuses, particularly CNR, want to be involved with more than the restricted membership of NF offers — and a tie to NF now could only be a liability.

Others arguments against maintaining this affiliation include the peripheral nature of the issues NF discusses, the haphazard method of debating on those issues, and the late timing of taking positions on them. Then, too, the finances necessary to continue membership (over \$400 for membership alone) seem far too much in view of the far too limited effectiveness of the organization.

The question of NSA is a different one — both because of the type of organization and the amount of money involved: membership in this nation-wide, non-sectarian organization costs only \$40 per year. However, despite the benefit of contacts with student leaders across the country, the present condition of NSA on this campus needs immediate re-examination.

Foremost in such an investigation should be a consideration of the current method of representation. At present, delegates are elected by only a small percentage of the student body — and yet, at the summer convention, they are expected to cast a vote for the school. This is a disadvantage for the students supposedly being represented, and a handicap for the delegates who cannot know the feelings of their constituency.

Indeed, the question of membership in NSA at all needs further evaluation. The lack of organization, the dominance by a few large universities, could lead one to doubt the advisability of maintaining affiliation. Before we could recommend complete dissociation, however, we would like to see a specified trial period with an intensive discussion of NSA and with more evidence for both sides; NSA does not seem to have received the same amount of consideration as NF has had.