A STUDENT ASSEMBLY—A REORGANIZATION OF UNDERGRADUATE GOVERNMENT

There was no doubt about it. It was time for a change in the student government setup at the Institute, it should have been dispelled by the most recent meeting of the Institute Committees during which twenty minutes were spent discussing a question which should not have been brought up at all. As currently constituted, this body is ineffective, bogged down with petty detail, incapable of commanding the interest of one tenth of the student body.

The concept of the Committee as a collection of interest groups, each representing various activities at the Institute, is one cause of its present flaccidity. The committee should rightly have one interest—that of the students—and should be responsible to this interest in the Institute's balance. If the activities are not at each other's throats, then routine regulation with regard to dates of functions, finances, etc., can be properly left up to various representative groups such as the Walker Memorial Committee.

If at the other extreme a crisis occurs among activities, then the problem becomes a legitimate undergraduate grievance, to be approached from the overall point of view of what is best for the students.

For the moment, the Institute sorely needs a student group whose chief function is to advise the Administration on student opinions and needs, and to point up flaws in the Institute's structure. Not half enough time was spent last spring in fact-finding and reasoned judgment on the Administration's proposals for campus living. Institute Committee knew, or should have known, what problems the Institute faced in this regard and what proposed solutions were in the wind. It should have investigated. It knows now that the parking situation is still a problem that needs to be approached from the overall point of view of what is best for the students.

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