Travesty of justice

Last Tuesday, March 24, the General Assembly resoundingly passed a motion stating that it felt the General Assembly was incapable of handling "political cases" and specifically the cases of those people charged in the occupation of the President's Office. The motion concluded, "We therefore propose that these cases ["politi-
cal cases"] be deferred until a new system is implemented by the faculty, and would request of the faculty that it expedite current considera-
tions." The motion resulted after a presentation of the proposed changes in the Discipline Committee, which had resulted from the combined efforts of the Disciplinary Commission and the General Assembly, "now known as the Task Force." It is unfortunate that the motion is blindly ignorant of the facts concerning the situation. It was a stated fact that the administration was going to bring the cases of those involved up before the judicial panel. It is a fact that the efforts which went into changing the Discipline Committee were made for the purpose of making the Discipline Committee a more equitable process for internal discipline. It was a fact that the charges would be acted upon in the near future. As such it is not unexpected and direct violation of the Bill of Rights and probably a portent of more restrictive future measures.

Wednesday's The Tech editorial was titled "Assembly naively attempted to insist that reality must not be allowed to occur." If the General Assembly was unaware of these facts, as the discussion on Tuesday might have indicated, it can be accepted as an act of ignorance. To propose an alternate motion in the face of the reality without offering an alternative proposal is totally irresponsible. The GA Judicial Task Force must rely on the motion for the conclusion that the proposed Discipline Committee changes were commendable and appropriate, especially in light of the circumstances. The General Assembly is in a single three-hour meeting decided to try the contrary. Considering the time and effort spent by the Judicial Task Force it is a travesty that the GA, in all of its wisdom, could so quickly vote in opposition to the painstakingly considered views of the Task Force.

Many members of the General Assembly expressed a desire to see a new judicial system evolve from the work of the Commission's Task Force on Governance headed by Professor Campbell Stare; it is implied by the motion which "insists or requests" that these cases be deferred until a new system is implemented. This is also the desire of the Discipline Committee itself which states in its proposed changes, "The outlined procedures are not to be construed as creating a final system. It is anticipated that further changes may be made on the recommendation of the MIT Commission." We support such changes and anxiously await the Commission's recommendations. It is clear that once a motion passed by the General Assembly will be severely criticized and de facto ignored, because of the result of "now" and the charges were transmitted to the newly changed Discipline Committee. The General Assembly naively attempted to insist that reality must not be allowed to occur.

The motion concluded that the proposed Discipline Committee Nixon ignores basic rights

By Joe Kashii

President's latest effort to suppress speech-dam-
aged cannot be regarded as any-
thing except a deliberate at-
tem to still the voice of a dis-
sent, "Is it not the duty of government of the people is not
dared call itself the gov-
ernment of the people is not
to still the voice of a dis-
sent?"

When considered along with Agnew's intimidations of the na-
tional press, the Chicago Con-
spiracy Trial, and the daily branding those who disagreed with the Nixon Administration as "mutes and louts," this latest step to still the voice of the dis-
senting segment of the American public, and keep watch on it is past the stage of being ominous. If, as Thomas Jefferson put it, "it is the duty of every citizen to dissent," is it not the duty of a responsible government to al-
low and listen to dissent? That group of men in Washington which dares call itself the gov-
ernment of the people is not
only deaf to the people's cries, but seems to be slowly trying to make the people mute as well.

But then, maybe Nixon only wants to hear the news that he had a hard time hearing last November 15th when a half million Americans asked to be heard. But if you remember, although he played the heat of球,
ball game, he said that he wouldn't hear the people either. So, there may be none on able or brave enough to shout.

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