Travesty of justice

Last Tuesday, March 24, the General Assembly resoundingly passed a motion stating that it felt the Discipline Committee was incapable of handling "political cases" and specifically the cases of those people charged in the occupation of the President's office. The motion, therefore, insist or request that these cases be referred until a new system is implemented by the faculty, and would request of the faculty that it expedite current considerations. The motion resulted after a presentation of the proposed changes is totally irresponsible. The GA Judicial Task Force is expedite current considerations. The motion, therefore insist or request that these cases "political cases" be referred until a new system is implemented by the faculty, and would request of the faculty that it expedite current considerations. The motion resulted after a presentation of the proposed changes is totally irresponsible. The GA Judicial Task Force was expended for the purpose of efforts which went into changing the Discipline Committee. The General Assembly naively attempted to insist that reality not be allowed to occur. If the General Assembly was unaware of these facts, it is clear that the motion was not only ridiculous but the motion itself was concluded. It was indicated, it could be argued, of ignorance. To propose such a motion in the face of the reality of the situation without offering an alternative proposal is not only incredibly irresponsible but is also a travesty of justice. The GA, Judicial Task Force worked on the problem for weeks and concluded that the proposed Discipline Committee changes were commendable and appropriate, especially out of the circumspectness of the General Assembly in a single three hour meeting decided to 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. The 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 Searle; it is implied by the motion which "insists or requests" that "... these cases be referred until a new system is implemented..." This is also the desire of the Discipline Committee itself which states 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 again a motion passed by the General Assembly will be severely criticized and de facto ignored, all because it is the result of an uninformed body of people inclined towards hasty, dramatic votes on "pressing issues." The need for careful deliberation of formal motions is obvious if these motions are to be listened to and respected. With this in mind we propose a simple solution to this lack of a deliberative process; all proposed motions will be passed only after consecutive meetings before they are considered a formally passed motion. This would serve to stimulate thoughtful discussion and careful consideration of facts, thus preventing such a travesty as occurred last Tuesday night.

Nixon ignores basic rights

By Joe Kashi

President Nixon's latest effort to suppress "un-American dissent" is another example of anything except a deliberate attempt to control the right of every American to express his opinion in a peaceful way to the leaders of the nation and the government. As such it is a clear and direct violation of the Bill of Rights and probably a portent of more restrictive future measures. The New York Times reports that Nixon has issued a new National Park Service, which administers the White House grounds, to require a protest group planning to picket in front of the White House to disclose two weeks before any planned demonstration "any records of arrest, convictions and jail terms of those who have been arrested." Moreover, the new regulations require that "the disclosure of any previous demonstrations in which the demonstrator had taken part, as well as the degree to which he advocated the use of violence..."

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