

Grinnell College
Grinnell, Iowa
April 14, 1970

Loren Soth
Editorial Page Editor
Des Moines Register
Des Moines, Iowa

Dear sir:

In your coverage of the demonstrators present at Veterans' Memorial Auditorium Monday evening for Mr. Agnew's appearance, you more than adequately covered the seizure of the Viet Cong flags. However, you failed to mention the fifteen people from Grinnell College who marched the 50 miles from Grinnell to Des Moines, talking with people about the war in Vietnam and other problems confronting our nation. We talked to a number of the law enforcement officers around the auditorium to see what they were thinking as fellow-Americans and in particular to see how they felt about the demonstration. In general the officers with whom we spoke felt that the group as a whole was well-behaved.

Our pickup truck, full of the pop and beer cans we had picked up while walking along highway 6, was parked near the auditorium. Though one of your reporters photographed the truck, you failed either to mention it in your article or to print the picture. The truck was there to demonstrate our concern about the pollution problem which has not been handled effectively. In addition, you failed to note that our group was carrying an American flag at the same time the Viet Cong flags were confiscated.

We feel that the Des Moines Register has presented an incomplete account of the demonstration. Your reporters were reluctant to speak to members of our group, and you ignored the news releases we sent you. You have not acknowledged our concern and constructive efforts for peace and pollution control, while you allot much space in your paper to the potentially destructive elements in our society.

Attached are the signatures of the individuals who took part in the march from Grinnell to Des Moines.

Yours in peace,

Barry Zigas
Carolyn Ashbaugh
Donna Brooks
Tom Cech
R. A. Christiansen
Earl Crecelius
John Ellmore

Judy Falk
Eric Graff
Rob Harlan
Rich Hyde
Lee Johnson
Charles Martin
Paul Miller

John Nickle