

To the Grinnell College Community:

We have just returned from Washington, D.C. We left as moderate, perhaps even conservative students appalled by Cambodia and Kent State. We went to see the disarrangement of our rationality at all levels of government and also with the hope that our voices not fall on deaf ears. Our intention was to impress upon them that immediate conciliatory action would be the only saviour of higher education in this country. Furthermore, we went to Washington to implore those who exhibited a lack of understanding to make a sincere effort to listen to student dissent. Our agenda included visits with Sen. Harold Hughes, Sen. Jack Miller, Iowa Representatives Kyle, Schwengel and Smith, John Price, Special Assistant to the President, Daniel Rostenker, Herb Klein, President Nixon's director of communications, and Secretary of State Rogers (with astronaut Mike Collins thrown in for celestial guidance). We found Hughes and Schwengel to be sympathetic to student frustration and Schwengel to represent the only other ray of hope in the Iowa delegation. The others were harassed with gross misconceptions and outright disdain for the type of student dissent now present in our college campuses. We employed a tactful approach and offered positive suggestions while bluntly expressing our revulsion at the repressive policies employed by the Nixon-Agnew Administration toward dissenting students. This type of plea, however, fell on deaf ears. We insisted that the threat to higher education that exists at this time is unprecedented in American history and we were horrified as our remarks were received with indifference. Having done our damndest to present ourselves as moderate and rational student dissenters, we unfortunately have to report that Washington, D.C. does not seem to sense the urgency of the situation that we know exists. Therefore, we suggest that all institutions of social conscience expend every last ounce of effort in political action to articulate the impossibility of continuing normal activities during this crisis situation.

We plead for unity among students, faculty, and administration to achieve this end as expressed in the Tom Thomas proposal. Washington is dark with ignorance, we must attempt to shine light from Grinnell.

Kathy Heise
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Student Representatives in the delegation
to Washington