

April 25, 1969

In view of the "flag pole incident" of yesterday, I think it useful that the statement (which is reproduced below) of the students involved be circulated as widely as possible. I remind you that the statement represents the position of the students involved not the whole college community.

Glenn Leggett
President
Grinnell College

This statement is released by those students who Thursday, April 24, lowered the American flag and raised it, inverted, to half mast, and for those students who support them.

This action was taken, conscious of the fact that the inverted flag internationally symbolizes distress. Our action constitutes our reaffirmation of the fundamental principles for which we believe America should stand. That the flag was flown at half mast symbolizes our mourning that these principles have been so obviously abdicated and that over 30,000 Americans lie dead in Southeast Asia. The inversion indicates the truly international distress of a nation that blindly continues its course in Vietnam and boasts of an affluent society while millions suffer.

We furthermore object to the inaction of Grinnell College, as an institution, to what we believe are fundamental questions of conscience in our time - questions to which we believe all men must respond.