

# Letter to the Editor

## College Campuses Urged To Challenge Status Quo

The MSC administration's cooperation with the House Committee on Internal Security in turning over information on speakers and their funding reveals many things about the nature of the college. First, it shows that MSC is willing to give unquestioning obedience to the powers that be--- even when it is aware that its cooperation is requested in order to repress political groups. Second, it is further evidence that the college is not neutral as it claims; that it, indeed, takes stands of a political nature. Third, it indicates that the administration considers Academic Freedom to be a nice phrase to invoke when rationalization for complicity with repression is needed, rather than a principle which should be used in defense of the right of speakers to come onto our campus without fear of retaliation from ultra-conservative "witch-hunters."

This incident is in many respects analogous to the college's position on ROTC: just as MSC is complicit with the repression of those who actively oppose the Vietnam War, it likewise participates in the training of officers to carry on that war of genocide. In both cases the administration hides behind a false facade of academic freedom, with pretensions of neutrality, as it carries on its complicity without ever showing any indication of concern for the ends which its actions serve. It is exactly this kind of unquestioning obedience and apparent lack of moral conscience which served Hitler so well.

Not only are colleges not neutral, but because they are part of a larger society, they never can claim such a privileged distinction. Indeed, universities and colleges should and must take stands on issues. It is the positions which universities and colleges are taking today which must be challenged: their war research, their support of ROTC, their enrollment policies which discriminate against the poor and non-white. Campuses should be places which challenge the status quo and initiate meaningful change, rather than degree factories.