

# HBS Blacks Occupy Morgan, Protest Hiring Practices

More than half of the 67 black students in the first - year MBA program entered Morgan Hall last Thursday to show support for black demonstrators at Harvard College and ask HBS administrators to help increase the number of minority workers on University construction sites.

Over 40 blacks entered Morgan at 5:10 p.m. Some of the students argued for evicting administrators and remaining for the night, but a less militant group prevailed. They remained for an hour and left peacefully after George Lombard, Senior Associate Dean of the Faculty, answered their questions (see letter on this page.)

The demonstration at the Business School was prompted by a five - hour occupation of University Hall, the central administration building at Harvard College, in which 91 members of

the Organization for Black Unity (OBU) participated. The students left the building after being told they were temporarily suspended and receiving a court injunction ordering an end to the occupation.

OBU, composed of black Harvard students at both the graduate and undergraduate level, has issued a number of demands to the University. One of them calls for a 20 percent quota of non-white workers on all Harvard construction projects.

## UNIVERSITY DEFENSE

The University has issued a statement saying, "There is no justification for promising black and other non-white workers 20 percent of construction jobs" because the proportion of non-whites in the local population

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"does not come anywhere near to 20 percent. Accession to the demand would therefore involve gross and seemingly illegal discrimination." The University has pointed to a 1960 census which indicates that the non-white population of Boston and Cambridge is 9.3 percent. While Harvard acknowledges some upward adjustment may be appropriate because of population shifts, it does not feel the current proportion is anywhere near 20 percent.

## SEEKING RESOLUTION

The blacks at the Business School have asked the School "to use its prestige and influence to RESOLVE the present crisis. . ." HBS, however, does not control the signing of construction contracts, a power which is in the hands of the University even for HBS building sites.

Dean - elect Lawrence Fouraker, who assumes office on January 1, said the Business School supports the stated policy that "Harvard University is committed to eliminating any trace of discrimination and providing equal employment opportunities for black and other minority workers -- in hiring, pay, working conditions and promotion -- in all its activities."

He did not give his views on how this policy is implemented at the Business School, although he did suggest that HBS could influence the current debate by supplying qualified black management for the construction industry.