

Afro Co-Chairmen Explain Morgan Hall Demonstration

To the Editor:

The concern and interest generated by the appearance of an article in the December 12, 1969 edition of the Harvard Crimson entitled "Blacks at B-School Support O.B.U. By Hour - long Building Takeover" has raised substantial questions in the minds of many. It is to these questions that we intend to address ourselves herein. What follows is addressed to all concerned members of the Afro-American Student Union (AASU), the student body at large, and the faculty and administration of Harvard Business School.

On the evening of Thursday, December 11, 1969, about 5:10 p.m. a delegation of "concerned students" (members of AASU)

entered Morgan Hall to express to the administration their concern about the crisis taking place at Harvard College regarding the hiring of minority employees on University construction sites. As students of the Business School and members of AASU we communicated to the HBS administration in the person of Dean Lombard the following concerns: (1) what constructive influence, if any, was the administration of HBS exerting to resolve the crisis at the college. We felt and continue to feel that the prestige and influence of the Business School in the BUSINESS COMMUNITY should be brought to bear on construction companies to hire substantially

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more minority workers. Consequently, we went to the "source" to find out what in fact, the administration of HBS was doing and what was its position on the issue.

B-SCHOOL HELP MINIMAL

Dean Lombard indicated that to date the extent of the B-School's participation in resolving the crisis had been minimal, and confined largely to subsidizing the training of minorities once they had been hired on the job. However, he knew of no positive action that had been taken by the B-School as such to urge unions or construction companies to increase the ranks of their minority workers.

Other inquiries included (2) what action had been taken against the student members of O.B.U. occupying University Hall and (3) whether or not these students had been suspended. Answers to these questions were forthcoming after Dean Lombard retired to his office to make telephone inquiries. Dean Lombard was informed that the delegation would remain until such time as it received answers to the questions asked. In some 20 minutes or so the Dean returned and answered the questions that had been put to him. Subsequently, the assembled delegation of some 40 students left Morgan Hall. This is in fact what occurred.

THREE PUPOSES

This particular action on the part of AASU members was undertaken with three purposes in mind: (1) to obtain information on specific questions, (2) to demonstrate AASU's support of O.B.U.'s demands for substantially increased numbers of minority construction workers, and (3) to highlight the moral and "social responsibility" of the B-School to use its prestige and influence to RESOLVE the present crisis surrounding the hiring of increased numbers of minorities by construction companies.

We feel that our ends have been substantially forwarded by the recent events of Thursday evening and we urge the administration of the B-School to do "more" to demonstrate its commitment to "social responsibility."

— Grover Walker

—Matthew Augustine