

**editorial****A modest proposal**

James Reston wrote recently in *The New York Times* that, although "it has been a long time coming, university students are finally beginning to understand the difference between political demonstration and political organization."

Across the country students are organizing in support of candidates for next November's elections. The HBS Proposal, as outlined on Page One, provides a rational and realistic vehicle for effective political change as well as creating a unique and meaningful educational experience.

The Harvard Business School endeavors to educate business leaders who will be responsive to changes in their environment. More important, we must begin to understand how that environment operates and how we might effect changes in it. The HBS proposal may be a significant beginning.

**GIVE A DAMN!**

The events of recent weeks have left HBS a veritable hotbed of apathy and non-involvement. Notwithstanding the efforts of a few committed students and faculty to dislodge them from their perches, the vast majority of Business School members sit hard astride their fences--unwilling to take a stand on either side.

The din of silence which followed last Friday's murder of 2 and wounding of 9 black students at Jackson State College underlined the conclusion already drawn from the general response here to Cambodia, Kent State and consequent plans for responsible action: **most people at HBS simply don't give a damn.** While previous events at least elicited some degree of verbal reaction, the tragedy at Jackson State has brought hardly a murmur from Harvard's own silent majority. Black students are understandably outraged at the disparity in response, regardless of its causes.

Apathy in the Business School community has been evident at all levels. Most students faculty and members of the administration were unwilling to strike in an effort to show more visible opposition to President Nixon's

policies at home and abroad. Concomitantly, the support for plans to develop effective long term actions for change (such as the "HBS Proposal") has been weak.

The Student Association has been particularly adept at straddling the fence with both ears to the ground. Faced with an opportunity to provide the structure and leadership required for collective student action, the S.A. has remained aloof on its perch. Given the chance to provide members of HBS with an opportunity, through referendum, to express and have counted their views on events pertinent to this community, the S.A. has responded with traditional inaction.

We echo the deep concern expressed by a thoughtful few regarding the quality of contribution to the problems of business and society which can be expected tomorrow from those who so steadfastly refuse to acknowledge or become involved in the important issues of today. If many members of the present HBS community go on to become important leaders in business and administration in the future, we wonder what hope exists that their institutions and actions will be any more responsive to the socio-economic needs of society than those now causing such concern.