

SOME POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Several changes have been referred to the Committee of 15 for action and incorporation into the Legislative and Judicial Charter. Many have been put into effect without the Charter having been changed. These are all detrimental to the accused. One possible change would, of course, be to undo what has happened illegally. Another approach would be to institute somewhat parallel changes that would balance the undesired effects of what has already been done. Some of these changes are:

- a. Remove the President from the judicial proceedings. This would mean removing "Article IV" from the Charter. The student disciplinary proceedings at Harvard College have been completely separate from the President for over 50 years.
- b. The same should hold for the rule-making side of the system. If the interim rule-making power of the President is to continue, he should have to follow the relevant provisions of the Charter.
- c. The moves toward a jury of peers should continue. Students, faculty, and staff subject to the same provisions should have their cases heard by one tribunal.
- d. Bearing false witness, malicious prosecution, and malfeasance in office should be punishable offenses for administrators and faculty, as well as students.
- e. There should be a deadline for the hearing of cases as well as the bringing of charges. At the last possible moment last quarter, charges were brought against students arising from last Spring's activities. These cases are still awaiting trial.

These procedural reforms are only a small part of the entire problem of achieving an equitable system of justice on campus. As long as major segments of the community are working at cross-purposes and as long as some groups believe that they have an obligation to protest or stop the activities of others, it may be impossible to obtain what will be considered "justice" by all.