

## F.B.I. on Campus SEP 25 1970

President Nixon's call for Congressional action to authorize Federal intervention in the wake of campus bombings or arson, is so patently redundant that its motives as well as its effects raise serious questions.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation does not lack power to deal with such incidents; it has often done so in the past, most recently at the University of Wisconsin. The use of police power—local, state or Federal—against crimes committed on college campuses has not been challenged by any responsible source, least of all by university administrators.

Linked with the request for 1,000 additional F.B.I. agents to deal with campus unrest and aerial highjacking—an almost 15 per cent increase over the present force—the President's appeal can only have the effect of seeming to threaten Federal police rule over the campuses. The action is all the more suspicious in the context of the President's recent oddly repetitive admonitions to the nation's academic leaders to restore "order and discipline" within their domain.

It is no secret that Republican politicians, from Vice President Agnew to Governor Reagan, are exploiting the student issue in their campaign oratory. Are the President's pronouncements intended as a Greek chorus to underscore this political theme?

No one doubts that the academic leadership has the duty to take a firm stand — intellectually as well as administratively — against disruption, coercion and violence. But it should be as obvious in Washington as it is everywhere else that even the most skillful efforts to stem the tide of disorder and alienation are jeopardized in an atmosphere of mutual distrust and recrimination accentuated at the highest levels of government.