COMMUNICATION

To the Editor of The Tech:

Judging from the murmurs which appear after each election here at the Institute, the dissatisfaction among the student body with the present method of conducting elections seems to be very widespread. The principal objections seem to be two. First, the elections are usually conducted by the "procrastination system," there being little advertising in The Tech, none on the bulletin boards, and "ballots being received at the Cage" for several days which means that there is no outward sign of an election and few beside personal friends of candidates remember to vote. Second, secrecy is violated by having the voter's name on the ballot, rendering it possible for the preferences of each man. This was aggravated in at least one election this year by the counting of votes by those in charge as they were handed in, and in one election last year ballots were received after the polls were legally closed.

A number of men have suggested to me that the system in use at the University of Southern California be brought to the attention of the student body, and the time seems opportune to do so. There is nothing new about this system. Beginning voters will recognize it as the Australian ballot applied to school politics. It, however, brings to the election uniformity and order, secrecy when desired by the voter, freedom from ballot box stuffing, and convenience.

Consider this system applied to a general class election at M. I. T. Nominations will have been made as usual and the election advertised on each bulletin board. On the day of the election the polls will be open in the Union from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., where will be found a table for each class with a representative of the Institute Committee in charge of each. He will have a list of all members of the class whose election he is conducting. A man coming to vote will sign his name on the proper line, and if his name is found he is then given a ballot stamped with a number in one corner. This number is entered opposite his name on the class roll, and he is then free to vote. 

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