THE TECH

COMMUNICATIONS

To the Editor of The Tech:

The submissiveness of the Institute Committee to the persuasion of popular and forceful others has long been a menace to our democratic student government, but when the delinquent body of the Institute throws deliberation to the winds and rushes into an act which it has not the slightest semblance of authority to carry out, it is time for public opinion to recall our representatives to their duty.

The argument is put forward that the power to levy taxes is included in "all the legislative and executive powers of this Association," and therefore vested in the Institute Committee. Without referring to the purpose and limitations of the Association as set forth in the Preamble and Article II, let us suppose for the sake of argument that the Constitution does purport to invest this taxing power. Can any such authority be actually conferred in the total absence of enforcing power? Could the United States levy a dollar of tax if it had no power to compel payment? Such taxes are like "paper blockades," not valid unless enforced.

It is natural that a number of new men have paid the Blanket Tax in the belief (so effectively conveyed by the Committee) that it was compulsory. To obtain money thus by deception will I am sure do the Institute Committee take more care in their duty.

It has been claimed that agitation of the Blanket Tax situation was useless and that a simple and forcible appeal to the student body would have been a menace to our democratic student government. But when the delinquent body of the Institute is so incalculable harm. Therefore I hope to see the Blanket Tax known and advertised for what it actually is, a voluntary tax or subscription, and I hope to see the Institute Committee take more care in the weighing of its acts, and depend less upon its influential leaders.

E. A. WEAVER, '15.

To the Editor of The Tech:

By virtue of the constitution of the Undergraduates Association the Institute Committee is invested with "all the legislative and executive powers" of the Association. Moreover the purpose of the Undergraduates Association is regulatory and supervisory both for the student body and for the various student activities.

The Institute Committee, in affirming the compulsory character of the Blanket Tax has assumed the power of taxation.

Returning to the matter of the Tax it should be remembered that taxation implies two things, first, the right to levy an assessment and, second, the power to enforce compulsory payment. Since both of these essentials are missing the action of the Institute Committee at once becomes absurd and ridiculous.

It has been claimed that agitation at this time would tend to vitiate the continued success of the Blanket Tax Committee. Personally the writer thinks that the men who have not yet paid their "tax" will do so only at their own convenience and not under the gun of compulsion.

The Institute Committee, by continuing this blight, may increase this year's revenue, but will eventually harm the cause to a much greater degree.

A. H. WENZEL, '17.

MOMDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1915

While discussion is rife as to whether there should be a voluntary blanket tax or a compulsory blanket tax, it might be well to remember that what actually exists is a Blanket Tax. For years Technology has groaned about blandly for a method to place its athletics on a firm financial basis. Here, at last, is the opportunity of buying what amounts to an athletic season ticket and of supporting an institution which every college has come to regard as essential in its future. The student government, but when the delinquent body of the Institute.

The decision of the Institute Committee seems to be suffering a little extra exertion if the appointment of the sub-committee, until someone hit upon a ready-to-wear department of material at their own convenience and not under the gun of compulsion.

The chronic state of lethargy from which the greater part of the Institute Committee seems to be suffering has long been a matter of comment, and this year the student government has come to regard as essential in its future. The student government, but when the delinquent body of the Institute.

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