The TECH

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MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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Editor, The TECH

I note with considerable interest your article in the May 15 issues of The Tech, which headed, "Tech Show to go on in Spite of Institute Committee." I should like to take this opportunity to correct the false impression which this headline gives, and to indicate the true factual picture.

It was voted at the Institute Committee meeting of May 9, 1936, not only to retain recognition of Tech Show as a Class A activity, but also to discontinue the Show immediately. Last, as The Tech, it has done in the past, assume the identity of "Tyranical jurisdiction," and question the power and authority to make such a decision. I may refer you to the Constitution of the M. I. T. Undergraduate Association, which gives the Institute Committee the power to "expel, suspend, or reprimand any organization," and to the Institute of the general and public, and to entrust the Institute's own discretion over the student body with the assurance that the same are conducted in the best interest of the student body as a whole. I, therefore, believe that the decision of the Institute Committee shall be considered as "the Unanimous Assent,"... except, in petition presented in writing by fifty students, within ten days of the enactment of such a decision.

Since such a petition has been received from Tech committee and from the student body, the school would be established in Washington, D. C., and would be supervised by a board named by the President. Such a board would look after the financial affairs, the Treasury, Interior, Commerce, Agriculture, and public interest. It would be typical, in large part, of the student body, and would be manned by appointment, each representative having the right to appoint one student from his district by year, each senator two per year, from his State, and the President would appoint fifty at large and from the District of Columbia, and one each year.

The very fact that the student body of the school would be made up by appointment precludes the idea that the student body is real Civil Service organization, for when we have appointments by politicians we have politics in government. In all approximately five hundred students would be appointed each year, and since the course of study would be four years, we would have student body of two thousand with all expenses paid by the government, involving a total outlay of at least two million dollars per year.

Now there is no need for any such School of Government, even aside from the very important fact that we already have, in our great universities, schools where a man can receive as broad and thorough an education in government as the proposed Federal school could give him.

What we in America really need is not a Civil Service Academy but a broader Civil Service Law, which would cover all and equal all positions. A broader Civil Service Law would enable to office holders their positions, and would leave in the hands of these positions attractive to a higher grade of professional. In this connection, it is hardly necessary to point out that many well qualified Civil Service employees des Esme promotions to positions where their talents would enable them to render valuable service to the State because they would then no longer be protected by Civil Service regulations, and would not be able to utilize these positions to the full. A broader Civil Service Law, however, do away completely with the system of police in the government, and the politicians would favor them.

Aside from this one very practical objection, we think that by this means alone can the United States build up a really intelligent and valuable body of Civil Servants, comparable to the "one thousand five hundred men and women" whose life work it is to run the British government.

The proposer of the idea, Representative Disney of Oklahoma, was probably acting upon the most altruistic of motives in putting it forward, but in effect it provides Congress with just so much more pork for the barrel.

Jane C. Loder, ’37

THE TECH

OPEN

NO. 48

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1936

AND WHAT OF THE TECHNOLOGY SHOW?

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I believe that it can be stated without much question and assurance that in the future, such trips will be possible. It may be that the idea has found expression in a hill now before the Institute Committee, which would cover all appointive and Civil Service Law, 7

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