TO THE SOPHOMORE AND FRESHMAN CLASSES

There exists in the regulations of the Institute a rule applicable to the undergraduate student body which was not made to be broken. This rule has become familiar to Sophomores through its publication under the Institute seal prior to the last field day.

The purpose of this note is to announce to the Junior and Sophomore Institutes of Technology who shall participate in unauthorized demonstrations shall be liable to immediate expulsion.

This is an excerpt from the faculty rules on general good order and in the form usually found on bulletin boards is signed by Dean Laboll, Dean of Students. The evident importance of this rule and its wide dissemination by all available means on the part of the students is a warning to all Sophomores of any sort for which the student body is held responsible.

The Institute, as undergirded responsibilities are all, is aware to making strict rules which must be fulfilled to the letter by the student body. Undoubtedly this can be ascribed to the belief on the part of the powers that be that the men of Technology should be treated as men, and allowed to make their own decisions unhindered by restrictions which are necessary only for the direction of those who cannot be trusted to exercise prudence in their judgment. Outstanding examples of the privilege of free action which the Institute has seen fit to bestow upon the students is the unrestricted fraternizing system, the lack of a system of class cuts, and the independence adhered to by the graduate activities. Since the Institute has reaffirmed full confidence in the sagacity and loyalty to the school of the men of Technology, it remains for us to justify that confidence. Should this note indicate it, we beg leave to write a new rule under the power of any sort for which the student body is held responsible.

The probable reason for the existence of the rule against demonstrations is the belief of the Institute authorities that although students will in general act with mature balance, some provision should be made so that they should fail to do so, the name of the Institute would be compromised.

In the light of recent events it appears that the adoption of such a rule was a wise step.

Recently there was a demonstration between freshmen and Sophomores in a place completely open to the public. Yesterday there was a notice on one of the bulletin boards of the Institute to the effect that if Sophomores were interested in recovering some missing neckers while they could do so by appearing at a specified time and place. Whether this note was intended as a joke or whether the authors were trying to promote an interclass struggle on Boston streets is it not our intention to conjecture; if a joke it is easily dismissed, but the fact of its existence demands a serious treatment.

The one demonstration that took place, and the other that may have been in the offering, might do much to besmear the name of Technology, especially in wartime.

Perhaps this aspect of the situation did not occur to some of the participants; by others it may have been dismissed as unimportant.

To the former, we take the liberty of suggesting that they develop a more responsible attitude toward maintaining a good public opinion of their Alma Mater. This sort of loyalty is just as vital a factor in college spirit as loyalty toward the crew of track team.

To those who consider the name of Technology unimportant we have to say that by treating it as such the men of Technology render them less liable to expulsion; if they care no more for Technology than their actions indicate, we are not sure that such an expulsion would not benefit the student body.

In all probability, all such public disturbances were undertaken in the spirit of thoughtless good fun. We hope that they will not recur.