PROF. ALFRED V. DE FOREST

Yesterday the Institute received the sad news that Prof. Alfred V. de Forest, '12, had died suddenly at his home. This is the second loss that the faculty has suffered in the past two weeks.

Professor de Forest, a full professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department, was world-famous for his work in that field. Although physically handicapped, Professor de Forest carved a prominent place for himself in the engineering world. His achievements and his persistence in overcoming his handicap should be an inspiration to all of us at the Institute.

FOOLISHNESS

Last night the Institute Committee, governing body of the students at the Institute, held its regular bimonthly meeting. The meeting was principally notable for its length and the incredible ignorance displayed by the members.

As members of the governing body, members of the Institute Committee are expected to know more about the problems of student government than the average student. Yesterday they showed that they might know even less! The agenda of the meeting was published and posted sufficiently in advance for every member to acquaint himself thoroughly with the matters to be presented at the meeting.

Only a half-hearted attempt was made to ascertain whether or not the activities slated to be declared defunct were really defunct. An hour was wasted while the members haggled over this and that activity and its relative inactivity. It certainly seems that the only action to take with activities which have been defunct for a year or more is to declare them defunct. The motion to do so failed to receive the necessary vote largely because of the confusion brought about by bringing up trivial details when a matter of principle could and should have been decided.

Speaking of Operations!

An invasion fleet of several hundred warships uses some 48,000 telephones—from 1,500 on a battleship to 10 on a motor torpedo boat. That's as many as are used by most cities of 160,000!

Our fighting men are using telephones, wire, switchboards, and other communications equipment in huge quantities. And Western Electric workers, peacetime suppliers to the Bell System, are busy meeting those needs.

That is why there are not enough home telephones right now. But we are looking forward to the day when the Bell System can again provide telephone service to anyone, anywhere, at any time.