WELCOME, CONFEREES

Delegates from 64 schools will assemble at four o'clock this afternoon for the beginning of the MIT Intercollegiate Conference on Selectivity and Discrimination in American Universities.

A wide geographical assortment of universities have brought together organizations that have made considerable advance in the hope that discussion and interchange of ideas will succeed in advancing the fight against narrowness and prejudice against the continued existence of what we have chosen to call a cancerous growth. This growth must be removed lest it poison the whole organism; let no one deny that fact.

Discrimination has been a sore trial here at the Institute. We have not yet arrived at the answer to the problem—the most effective means of eliminating these rotten practices; it is probable that no one has the answer. But we look to the Discrimination Conference hopefully as a sign of the alarm which these practices have aroused in college circles and as another step forward in the search for this answer.

We would like to see emerge from this conference a realistic and forceful working basis for the freeing of men's minds from the bonds forged by their bigoted ancestors. There are many who would wish to add their bit to this struggle, many more who would do willingly once they saw the detrimental effects of discrimination.

If this conference succeeds in nearing the goal we have set by the thousandth part, it will have been more than worth the year of sweat that went into its conception and execution.

Counselling and the Commuters' Council

MIT, like every other major university, has long faced the problem of integrating its commuting student into the student body as a whole. For twenty-two years, the sole permanent commuter organization lying within the bounds of the Institute was a Club originally founded as the Technology Commuters’ Association. The organizing committee of that group had for its object the getting together of all commuters and furthering of development of ‘friendship and social contact.” Now there is a more acute in Inscomm to do even more. This will be the proposed formation of the Commuters’ Council. This group would govern the commuter organization in such ways analogous to those in which the Dormitory Council and IFC govern their respective communities.

High time the needs of the commuting group here are not hard to recognize. But they are really tough to alleviate. Effective ways must be found to cultivate greater cohesiveness among the commuters in general, and to make available to them the extra-curricular opportunities that exist.

The problem is one of communications and geography. The resident spends nearly all his time with his fellow students because he lives with them. The commuter not only does not usually live with other students, but he must invest a good deal of time in travel in a city not noted for efficient transportation. This is a time which might otherwise be used for extra-curricular activities.

“Progress” is made up of concrete things. Alongside of the formation of the Commuters’ Council, which we heartily endorse, a sound program of counseling for commuting freshmen seems to be indicated. It is probably one of the best ways for these freshmen to meet fellow students outside the classroom, and the success of counseling in the dorms shows that this is a good way of acclimatizing the new student to MIT. However, such a program will work only if enough commuter-volunteer time is assigned to the job. The future of the Commuters’ Council will be that much roser for the existence of such a program.

The long range goal, of course, is to further contact not only among individual commuters, but to enhance the relations between those who live here and the resident students as a whole. But that is a problem that cannot be solved for the commuters have handed themselves over to the framework in which they can do this best is a strong Commuters’ Council that has the interested support of the commuter-volunteers. The future success of this group will be one of the strongest imaginative testimonials for the ability of students to solve their own problems and a renaissance of confirmation of the beliefs that form the ideological basis of student government at MIT.

BELL TELEPHONE SYSTEM