Editorials

GOVERNMENT BY DEFAULT

That's the best way to describe our Student Council of today. Insomma, through fear of TEN, the Tech, or hard work (check one) has apparently adopted the policy of laissez-faire, is keeping out of the limelight, out of controversy (that nasty word again) by doing nothing. Business as usual. Nobody notices any difference which is an index of the importance of the Institute Committee in the scheme of things, anyhow.

Well, perhaps not doing nothing. Just nothing significant, and nothing new at all. Perhaps the stifling of creativity occurs not only in the classroom—maybe it's the Cambridge Woven Hose in the air.

Meetings are still held, mind you, Insomma meets every week these days, more often and more regularly, with more conferences and committees than ever before in our admittedly short-term recollections.

Ah, committees. We once called the great glass ball in Walker's Morris Hall the eight wonder of the world. Insomma's committees may well be worth the ninth. The MIT bureaucrats and administration, could probably give lessons to the government's security program.

Right now, Insomma is reconsidering an ever-present crisis in the life of Everyman. For one thing, they're still trying to unravel the old problem of gaff and . . . SENIOR RINGS.

Alarmed at the immaturity of the members of the Senior Ring Committee, Insomma is now considering dehydrating its watered-down ethics proposal. The change: no longer allow any; allow only non-Locke-Ober, Institute dining service dinners. Had this decision been made, we might have saved a lot of embarrassment and backtracking.

Well, let us attempt to formulate an adequate policy. We recall the method in use at West Point. The Superintendent makes code scratches on the ring interfaces. Then, on the basis of quality and price, the drill officers select a ring, and the chosen ring is then identified by the superintendent and a contract signed. Now this system may be offensive to virtuous Technicians with tender feelings—but it is almost guaranteed fairer to their still tenderer purses.

Letters

To the Editor of The Tech

Dear Sir:

During the holidays (Friday, Dec. 23), a metal globe was taken from one of the cases in the Library exhibit room. Because my interest in the armory was well known, I was suspected and was asked to come to Dean Bovditch's office to speak a couple of Piskinon boys. I was cleared and actually cooperated in finding the globe.

For all a good start but some people seem to forget property rights and values. The globe wouldn't be worth more than a quarter in a pawnshop but it's worth much more. The man who owns the armory 80 years old, and has spent most of his life collecting armor of all ages. These suits are his livelihood and he loves them. Without the globe, the suit is no good. To find a replacement might involve $25,000 or more and an extended trip to Europe. An equivalent suit would have to be preserved and hard to find. The globe seems trivial but "You want of a nail the shoe was lost", so also do many other things that are not due to anyone in the Institute, it still looks very bad and will make it very difficult to get exhibits in the future. The Piskinons would appreciate any information you might have about the globe. Miss Bean's office.

Thank you.

Frank D. Thompson '39
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