The Tech

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EDITORIALS

The Right To Vote

Retiring Undergraduate Association President John S. Saloms has suggested in his report that the new Institute Committee begin the year by understanding a thorough evaluation of the student government. As a prerequisite for any improvement in the frame of reference and a guide for action, the results of such a study would be invaluable. They would also facilitate the development of a full coverage and generally ignored problem—the representation.

The problem has cropped up periodically in one form or another—in the determination of criteria for somatics and in the problem of representation for the Athletic Association.

Essentially, there are two broad questions. What groups should be represented on Institute Committee? Should they be represented proportionally? Specifically, one of the major points is class representation. Few issues, if any, concern the freshmen viewpoint on any issue. If Institute Committee wishes to present its legislation and in speeding its acceptance, heeded would prove helpful, both in the drafting of beneficial legislation and in the formulation of educational policy. If the freshmen viewpoint on any issue is sought, it can be obtained without giving two votes in exchange.

The activities in general are given one seat and the President of the Institute Committee represents the Athletic Association. Certainly, the viewpoints of the Athletic Association and the activities should be heard on matters affecting them. It should be reemphasized, but why should they be given a vote on any other issues?

In its self-evaluation, the new Institute Committee must decide whether the right to present testimony and the right to make decisions is a fundamental right of the student body. But declarer was bothered only shortly by this misfortune and followed up with the 9 of spades. West had previously showed a club suit and now was obliged to discard his two good hearts on the last two spade tricks because he could not afford to give up a diamond which South had won with dummy's queen. He was now assured of a spade trick, 3 hearts and tricks for 5 diamonds, but after leading a low diamond to his ace and low trick by declarer's king, he was very dismayed at the 4-1 diamond split.

Bilateral Action

Vital to the success of student government is an approach to bilateral action. The President's report incorporates two significant suggestions designed to further this end—the employment of an advisor to serve as an independent representative of the students in policy-making; and the inauguration of joint Institute-faculty meetings.

Preparation of the student body for government is, of course, of utmost importance, but the furtherance of this aim does not prescribe cooperation with both administration and faculty. Had Executive Committee really made an effort, the judgment of the administration and the student body as a whole would have been considered.

Point of View

Saloms pointed out that The Tech often "has presented the point of view that Institute Committee should like to communicate." In the light of this statement, the role of The Tech as an agency of communication must be discussed.

The Tech is not the official organ of the Institute Committee. Its news is good in that it reaches the picture of Institute Committee in a few hands, but that is no guarantee. Its success or failure must be judged by this standard. If Institute Committee wishes to present its "point of view," it will, when it publishes any article which publishes any attitude, it must be made clear that the Tech is a part of the Institute Committee's effort to communicate. It will not slant its coverage, but the Tech would not slant its coverage to discredit Institute Committee.

Saloms felt that The Tech had not been able to give all of the student viewpoint its full coverage. The Tech, does not suggest that student government itself is partially to blame. It has, in the past, made little attempt to cooperate with The Tech. Many decisions made in closed sessions are difficult to obtain and from actions which follow are limited. We suggest that as a general policy, all meetings except those of a necessarily confidential nature be open. Saloms complains that The Tech does not present the point of view that Institute Committee would like and that full coverage is given, yet Executive Committee meetings, where policy decisions are made, are not open.

The activities of the many sub-committees often merit "full coverage." Only through the cooperation of Institute Committee and its sub-committee chairman can such coverage be effective. If improved communication is desired, the new Institute Committee has it in its power to act accordingly—"The need, again, is for bilateral action."

The kibitzer

Opening Lead: Jack of Hearts

This hand was played at the MIT Bridge Club last Saturday and although the bidding was very unorthodox and aggressive, the final contract was a fruitful one for the West-South team. South opened a spade for a 53-32 distribution and the hand still does not call for a NT opening coeise. It is a point at which to reach such conclusions that the bidding response which I now propose. South bids a spade expecting a no-trump or club response from his partner to be able to bid diamonds the next time on a low heart. His partner's next response is 2 NT which South then bid to 3 NT.

The normal opening lead of the pack of hearts was taken by declarer's South. South led a small spade and West won with the king returning the 10 of hearts. South took with the ace and led another low spade which East took with his ace. East returned his last heart and declarer won with dummy's queen. He was now assured of a spade trick, 3 hearts and tricks for 5 diamonds, but after leading a low diamond to his ace and low trick by declarer's king, he was very dismayed at the 4-1 diamond split.

But declarer was bothered only shortly by this misfortune and followed up with the 9 of spades. West had previously showed a club suit and now was obliged to discard his two good hearts on the last two spade tricks because he could not afford to give up a diamond which South had won with dummy's queen. He was now assured of a spade trick, 3 hearts and tricks for 5 diamonds, but after leading a low diamond to his ace and low trick by declarer's king, he was very dismayed at the 4-1 diamond split.

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