editorial

Passive Resistance?

Is military power the only means of defense? Certainly the question deserves consideration, and this is just what it got at the two day discussion program sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee last weekend at the Shady Hill School.

It is generally taken for granted that the basis of defense must be military force. Because of the charging nature of military force and the constant state of preparedness, it is longer justifiable, as easily as it has been in the past, if it can be justified at all. The fact is there exists a basic difference between conventional and non-conventional war.

Most of this difference is due to the fact that the defensive capacity of nuclear weapons is so enormous that there is no possible physical means of defense against them. Also, these weapons have the novel characteristic that each time one of them is tested it is an addition to the pollution of the earth's atmosphere and surface. Even though the whole subject of fallout and radiation is a matter of scientific controversy there is agreement that if weapon tests were to be carried out on a large scale, the human race could probably exterminate itself in preparing to defend itself.

The United States is committed to the idea that nuclear war would be suicide for both parties, and it is not rational to be suicidal. The aggressor, therefore, can destroy us but his destruction will be convulsive. This fact invalidates the historical idea that to every attack there must exist a counter attack. This is the kind of unreasoning approach to passive resistance. (But is it in the American interest to demilitarize? On what basis could we destroy a billion dollar aluminum fabricating plant near Clarington, Ohio?)

There is reason for doubting whether military force is any longer the best way to counter military aggression of the nuclear type, since a nation militarized or at is not still defended militarily. This is the basis for a new, rational approach to passive resistance. (But is it in the American interest to demilitarize? On what basis could we destroy a billion dollar aluminum fabricating plant near Clarington, Ohio?)

The phrase "student autonomy" has been constantly bandied about until most of us forget just what it is that we are actually trying to achieve. One interpretation to which I object strongly is that of the Institute Committee making a large number of rules governing student behavior simply to prove that the students are governing themselves. I believe that this term should refer to the individual student handling his own affairs insofar as is possible—providing he has all the facts and knows what they mean—his brain always operating like a well oiled machine, rarely using notes. He could recall when Chiang had said to him: "Collectivism is a good thing but I want to administer it. He also had a diagnosis for most of the problems. Latimore said that capitalism is a form of enterprise in which a man can either prosper or fail very easily, but we as individuals want too much to avoid the risk of failure.

Lutinmun tended to take a very realistic view of the world situation. He said that there would not be an easy solution and there would never be a solution that did not bring some problems. The social content goes on and on but the more it is there the more it is justified in his indoctrination and choice that which is right and critically evaluated within his limited sphere was justified and escape from oppression to a brighter world was always possible.

Before long a person finds himself asking, who isn't Latimun in the state Department?

Statements Of U. A. P. Candidates

The question has often been asked: "What good is the Institute Committee, and what has it ever done to benefit me?" None of the many emphases offered in the past has yet provided the answer.

The two vital points that have caused the confusion in the operations of Inscorem have been (1) the lack of recognition of the fact that in a community dedicated to independent thought and intellectual freedom, the most beneficial government is the minimal government and (2) the failure of the Institute Committee to recognize its role in the maintenance of the government.

The sole justification for the existence of a central student governing body such as Inscorem is, I believe, its administration of the following functions: (1) Administration—necessary compilation and processing of the constitution, documents, and correspondence from student activities and from student groups; (3) Protection—protection of the interests of students, both singly and collectively, from infringement by other students, faculty, administration, and outsiders; (4) Education—providing a worthwhile educational experience for those participating in student government.

I believe that I can effectively guide the Institute Committee in accomplishing the above goals during the coming year.

The role and worth of the Institute Committee has been seriously questioned many times in this paper and elsewhere. Much of this questioning has been very valid since the student government here at MIT occasionally loses sight of its own purpose.

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Are you aware of the fact that over 40 per cent of our sales are in the non-chemical field; that we manufacture such products as "Winchester" firearms. "Western" brass, "Western" cartridges, "Ramset" powder, etc., "Olin aluminum", and are expanding our nuclear operations. As the need develops, so will we develop.

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