**Clearing for Security**

MIT maintains a tremendous amount of government and industrial research contract work. The classified nature of much of this work has necessitated the addition of a Security Office to the MIT staff. He is Harvey Burstein. The Security Office Burstein handles security clearances from the government on behalf of MIT staff, students, and personnel. And with the help of the Security Office, the job is done thoroughly and efficiently.

During a recent interview Mr. Burstein kindly described those aspects of the National security system pertinent to MIT. At the present time, the government does not allow the Security Office to classify its employees, teachers, or professors and associate or deny them security clearances. Clearances of all levels at MIT are therefore handled by government agencies and the investigative burden has been removed from the organization.

The investigating body with respect to all work for the Department of Defense at MIT is the Office of Naval Intelligence.

Investigations are conducted on three points only. First, there are character, associates, and loyalty. A good investigation never concerns itself with a person's professionalism.

Whenever there is a question of loyalty involved in an investigation, the FBI immediately assumes the investigative role. But the FBI grants no clearances nor makes any recommendations, this is still the responsibility of the Central Screening Board in the Pentagon.

An investigation is no small affair. It usually takes two months to obtain a clearance.

An investigation may be started by the person concerned, or on his behalf by his friends, neighbors, fellow students, fellow employees, former teachers and colleagues, and others who may be interviewed. The cost of such an investigation may run into thousands of dollars. Another round of file checking must be done as the names of the person's associates become known. But the final report will contain no evaluations by the investigating agency, only the collection of facts, opinions, and hearsay as such. Commonly the derogatory information is presented to the employee for written correction.

The basic standard for the award or denial of clearance is whatever access to classified information is consistent with national security. The Defense of the United States is the responsibility of the Secretary of Defense. The Central Screening Board opens a case to reconsideration by the Employment Review Board.

The position of security officer is not a particularly onerous one. A person may like to go out and get drunk and talk a little too freely. Or he may like to brag to his girl. He may have relatives in another country in such a position that they could be used to bring pressure to bear on him. A person might be found to have had several nonsuit, or if one has ever been associated with Communist, or if there are other irregularities it will take longer. The first step in an investigation is a national agency check, which means an examination chiefly of the files of the FBI, the Civil Service Commission, the military intelligence branches, and the House Committee on Un-American Activities. If no derogatory information turns up this is known as the background or full field investigation.

If any information appears that bears on the character or loyalty of the employee, it must be traced to its source. It is Security Officer Burstein's responsibility to solicit cooperation by the local security clearances from the government on behalf of MIT students, personnel, and visitors. Should the government on behalf of MIT students, personnel, and visitors.

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