4 Student Textbook Agents Are Dealt Pencil Probation

The Technology Textbook Agents—Dusk Pearson '61, Gene Sali-
man '72, William Schmid '63 and Edwin Strauss '58—have been placed on "pencil probation" by the Institute Committee Judicial Committee. The quartet pleaded guilty to the charges and was found guilty of a fourth charge stemming from its advertised plans to sell "printed editions" of American textbooks at MIT.

The Judicial Committee, which acted on the recommenda-
tion of the Institute's Executive Committee, reached its decision last week. The issue of "pencil probation" is explained in the following statement appearing below.

The controversy surrounding TITA's operations started soon after the group's April 7 advertising flyers announced TITA's intentions of selling textbooks at less than one-half the American retail price. The release, known as "gestated editions," was to be photo-offset copies of existing American books, printed in countries (Foremost, the main outlet for textbooks to advertise its name, they have placed ads for the "gestated editions" and claimed that they are the observers' choice. TITA operators also offered the books for personal use, a fact which has left a 

The legality of importing such books with the intent of sale in the United States is questionable. Apparently it is at least legal to bring the books into the U.S. for personal use, a fact which has been a long-time irritated American publishers.

The question of legality was not a factor in the Judi-
cial Committee decision, based solely on violations of MIT's codes of conduct. The group was found guilty of three offenses by any judicial Commit-
tee or the Dean's Office, that he be expelled from the Institute.

TITA withdrew its advertising flyers from the Institute bulletin board soon after the controversy arose. At the Executive Com-
mitee meeting, the group was given the opportunity to present plans for amendment of its operations. However, the group has since affirmed its intention of considering selling MIT humani-
ty In Institute last week.