Freshman Government

The Freshman Class governing body, the Freshman Council, is about to be organized for the Class of 1966. This body, which has been composed in the past of elected representatives and alternates chosen from each freshman section, represents the Freshman Class until class elections are held in the spring. It is questionable that this governmental purpose is served by a body whose only real achievement is the sale of Beaver Pals, but for MIT's Student Government as a whole, it serves to introduce freshmen to student government activities and to provide a structure in which the freshman can learn a great deal about extra-curricular MIT, its practices and problems.

Recognizing that extracurricular, and particularly governmental activities, find a more suitable outlet in larger groups than the Freshman division, a proposal will be brought before the Institute Committee tomorrow night to elect a freshman council consisting of representatives from the living groups rather than the freshman sections. Assuming that one representative is elected from each of MIT's 28 Fraternities, and an equal number from the dormitory and community groups, this will produce a council of about 70 members.

The idea is a good one, but it leaves several questions to be answered. Whether or not such a large body can be of any benefit remains to be seen. It will depend largely on the leadership available, on the willingness of the representatives from the council. To the former point, we feel that it would not be well advised to subject the Freshmen to a load of general class elections this early in their MIT experience. Further, it is logical that class leadership come from the council, and allowing this group to select its own leadership would be an important step in giving it responsibility.

If the Freshman Council is to become any more than a group which exists simply by definition, it should be guided into a course which will allow it to take a more evident part in the Freshman problems, problems which are still fresh in the minds of a new student. If the maximum benefit can be derived from this group, it will have to take its own initiative, and use imagination in applying its efforts toward the general class election upon which the class government system can be improved.

In sum, we feel that there is much to be gained by recognizing the Freshman Council in the above manner, and we recommend it to the Institute Committee for consideration. The above observations should be considered and that Incom not bite off more than the Freshman can efficiently chew.

Memoriam to a tragedy:
A mother's wishes.

To the Editor:
Among those admitted as transfer students for this Fall was Alexander Price-Pan- santo, a senior from the College of Mechanic Arts and Agriculture in Mayan, Puerto Rico. Mr. Price-Pan- santo was killed, and his mother seriously injured, in an automobile accident this Summer. In response to a note from the Ad- missions Office she has written us as follows:

"I am also interested in aiding on a favor from you. I want the news- paper to publish a letter of acceptance this year in M.I.T. to give the view in my family, and I pray to God that they can do so well in their studies, for their future, for their whole, it serves to introduce freshmen to student government activities and to provide a structure in which the freshman can learn a great deal about extra-curricular MIT, its practices and problems.

Fallout Fantasy

MIT buildings have now had two separate surveys for areas useful as fallout shelters, one by MIT and one by the Federal government. The MIT survey was done with a good hard look at the prov.'s and con's of the issue. When MIT is asked to allow the civil defense organization to designate and stock areas for use as public fallout shelters, there are going to be unsatisfied people no matter what the decision.

In favor of the proposal we can say that these areas would be useful in saving lives in the event of a nuclear accident, enemy or domestic, which produced no major blast damage in the areas. MIT's decision will influence others, and if there are benefits to be derived, would be good exemplary action.

On the other hand, the national creation of fallout shelters raises the further the nuclear complacency which seems to grip us, even to the point of considering limited nuclear war as an element of foreign policy. MIT might be supporting a program which provides negligible real protection, while inducing a completely false feeling of complacency.

What do you think?