Mock election—no financial support for politics

The approaching October 27 mock election, to be administered by the Secretary, promises to provoke a vigorous and noisy campaign from the many political groups on campus. (For statements by both contending sides, see page 6.) Efforts of these groups, the Public Relations Committee, and the Secretary toward publicity will cause campaigns to prove useful and informative for both voters and the organizers and political workers. We urge all students to conscientiously make a decision and vote; a large turnout is necessary to make the results truly representative of student opinion.

There has been some reaction to the recent veto by the Finance Board of a plan to allow Secretariat to give equal sums of money to the active campaigning groups for "campaign expenses." Presumably this subsidy would have financed postcards, buttons, literature, and so forth—although this is only one time a suggestion that the groups not be held to account for their use of these funds.

Certainly an organized, energetic campaign will be beneficial to all concerned; but the Finance Board has, as a point of policy, resolved against the direct subsidy of political groups, for several reasons. Finboard money comes ultimately from the relatively general educational funds that it is, at present and endowment income. Besides violating valuable precedent, the board could conceivably endanger its tax-free status if theses funds were considered "political" in the legal sense. Finally, the decision will force the various groups to face the practical realities of campaigning for operating funds as well as for votes.

This general policy is wise; the purposes of student activities are primarily to improve student conditions and for campus action and school spirit. There are other organizations in much more need of financial assistance; there are also campus causes and student bodies more in need of active participation.

Student employment

Student help wanted posters are becoming a common scene on the Institute bulletin boards. It appears that each year more jobs are available with fewer students to fill the positions.

Last year, the Student Personnel Office had openings available for most of the year. This year the problem is even more acute. Many of the service staffs are in desperate need of students that would like to work five, eight, or even ten hours per week. It is frequently assumed that there will be many students interested in earning some money while attending school. This theory is rapidly growing out of date. Every year a larger percentage of the enrollments that depend upon working students, the service staffs are dependent upon students in order to function. In addition, the student and his parents that the first year requires considerable adjustment to college life. Some go beyond the general warning and specify that the new student not even consider work in the first semester or the entire first year.

Since many of the departments and service staffs are dependent upon students in order to function the adverse publicity and income in financial assistance does not help operationally in the least. The Dining Staffs, in particular, require a large number of students. After the normal rate of attrition, a nucleus of trained students is available to assume the student managerial positions and to train the students in the following years. This year, there is a lack of students interested in working on the Dining Staffs.

While it may be possible to manage to operate at a reduced level this year, and maybe even next year, the crucial question is what will happen two, three or even five years into the future.

We feel that the entire question of student employment companies deserve renewed attention. For the groups that depend upon working students, the problem is immediate. It is likely that conditions will not improve or, in the absence of corrective action can be applied. Those students that are only marginally interested in working will probably quit before exercising any time. This will not achieve previous levels of performance.

Resignation

The Board of Directors of The Tech has accepted the resignation of Ronald D. Goldstein '64 as Editor.

by Perry Neal

Probably your first contact with Student Opportunities Counselors, at least directly, was through the information sheets included in all returning students' registration material. However, behind the scenes, the relatively newly-developed student committee has been working to secure greater opportunities for students in Student Opportunities Counseling. Student Opportunities Committee grew out of the desire by many students for more and better summer jobs. Thence cooperation with Student Opportunities Placement Office and its director, Mr. Thomas W. Harrington, last year a letter was sent to some 300 companies stressing the benefits which all

Our permanent job-submission line is now doing a great deal of work, recognizing the vast amounts of material available, and developing new ideas and cooperation with the employment agencies. Student Opportunities Committee now also campus causes and activities more in need of people. Our permanent job-submission line is now doing a great deal of work, recognizing the vast amounts of material available, and developing new ideas and cooperation with the employment agencies.

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