MIT declines to prosecute

Pedlosky, oath on trial

By Mark Ballotta

The case of Joseph Pedlosky, Prof. of Mathematics, against the Massachusetts Teachers' Loyalty Oath was argued in court yesterday. The case, which began last fall when Pedlosky refused to sign the oath, was presented before the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts by Pedlosky's lawyer, Gerald Berlin. A decision is not expected soon.

Origin of oath

The case against Prof. of Teachers' Loyalty Oath was an outgrowth of the widespread spread of loyalty oaths in World War I. Among the leading proponents of this and similar oaths was the American Legion, a small segment of the teaching profession which believed in the virtues of "Communism," and many tabloid newspapers.

Although sixteen states passed such legislation between 1919 and 1923, only Massachusetts looked favorably upon the oath. This oath varied from one state to the next but most included the following stipulations:

1. To take an oath to support the Constitution and laws of the United States.
2. To swear that there is no conspiracy to overthrow the government by force or violence.
3. To pledge to support the war effort.

The MIT Society for Social Responsibility in Science held two meetings Tuesday, the first of which was a panel discussion dealing with "The Effects of Chauvinist Research on Student Life."

The discussion was moderated by Professor Norman Dale of the Mechanical Engineering department.

The first panel member, Yao Li of History and Astronomy, spoke in favor of classified work on campus. Professor Li felt that "most problems were of minor interest to the student who, in any case, would be classified by the federal government."

Professor David Frisch of the Physics Department felt that, while a student should not be faced with any classified work, he should be on the Ph.D. level, he found nothing wrong with the fiscal advantages, but felt that classified work tended to limit one's undergraduate experience. Finally, Barry Lerner, an MIT Electrical Engineering instructor, spoke of his experience with classified research. Though he admitted that one could gain much through such an experience, he also would have to give up much of his personal freedom to do classified work. He also found that students considering classification often avoided campus political activity fearing that they may not be permitted to do so afterward.

Armand Siegal, Professor of Metallurgy, spoke of his experiences in France as part of a survey titled "Scientists and Scientists in the American Atomic Arena."

"The argument, "An American in Paris," was based on his views of the French scientific community which he had been a part of during his recent sabbatical from MIT. During that time he worked in the Center for Nuclear Studies just outside Paris.

According to Siegal, French scientists identify themselves as scientists, something their American counterparts try not to do. They are also generally liberal and idealistic, he said, and harbor a distrust of all governments and all politicians.

Professor William Ambrose of the MIT Mathematics Department spoke on his experiences in Argentina. Although his university, he said, are run by professors, the nation was divided into a "permanent student view" and the problems to the CEP, and as a source of new ideas and programs for SCSEP."

Many Discussions Held

The formation of the group was the result of a meeting last spring to discuss the possibility of student representative participation. The group is the first of its kind and is hoped to provide a major step in the improvement of student-faculty relationships.

The other major topic of discussion was the feasibility of a pass-fail grading system at MIT. Opinion among the CEP were generally conservative, favoring the letter grades; the discussion of pass-fail grades in courses outside of Institute and departmental requirements is pending for future CEP committee meetings.

Pass-Fail Discussed

The discussion of pass-fail grading systems led to a talk on the general philosophy of grades. It was pointed out that the problem is not one of what grade system is given and interpreted rather than than the concept of grading.

The group also addressed the tendency to work for the grade for its own sake rather than for the satisfaction of what the student learns. The entire desirability of a grade system was questioned. Student demand grades to let them know how they are doing in relation to their classmates. Also, it would be difficult for graduate students to find a standard for admissions other than grades.

City, MIT outline snow regulations

In anticipation of winter snow, both the Institute and the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce have issued snow regulations. The MIT Student Volunteer Police President in charge of Operations and Personnel, announced that campus will be closed Sunday and Monday as usual during open snow. It is requested that one return 10:00 AM Wednesday and want for an official announcement from radio stations WEEZ (1360 AM) or WYBC (1580 AM) or for a telephone notice from the police department.

It is possible that one of MIT's activities will be closed while others remain open.

Special parking regulations are also in effect during periods of foul weather. The Executive Vice President of the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce cars that cars and trucks be kept off the streets, if possible, until the streets are clear; that parking areas be cleared of snow immediately when snow stops; that no snow plowing be done on the streets; and that the spaces to haul snow from connections in front of buildings have to be kept open by the property owner.

By Carson Agnew

Hannah Arendt, noted expert on revolutions, gave a lecture on "Revolution and Freedom" in Kresge Auditorium last Wednesday night. The talk, which was attended by about 60 people, was a part of the CEP-SCEP debate series and was presented by the Institute.

Miss Arendt began by commenting on the topical nature of her subject, pointing out that war between the north and south was impossible for the present because of technological advancement. That is, the war would be a "cold war" which understands the nature of revolution: either war would result in the destruction of the country which understands the nature of revolution.

Revolution and Public Freedom

She then traced the etymology of the word "revolution." The first modern use of the word, she said, came with the glorious American Revolution. Though the nation was over before the war began, the nation was over before the war began.

French Revolution

Miss Arendt then mentioned the French Revolution and the revolutions of 1848, when the idea that there was to be a revolution and that there were to be changes in government shifted to mean something else. In 1848, a class ended. She ended her talk with some comments on the reasons for the end of the revolutions of today.

By By Mark Boldtin

The Debate Team took third place in the Seventh Annual Invitational Debate Tournament held last Friday and Saturday, Representative John Johnson '71 and Jim Frazier '71. The Debate Topic was "Resolved: That the United States should substantially reduce its foreign policy commitments." The only American in the tournament to stand out, however, was Harvard University's Michael Telson '67, SCEP Chair, who signed the resolution that stated "The United States should substantially reduce its foreign policy commitments." The only American in the tournament to stand out, however, was Harvard University's Michael Telson '67, SCEP Chair, who signed the resolution that stated "The United States should substantially reduce its foreign policy commitments."

 averaging all six of its rounds, defeating Wichita State University, University of Kentucky, Ohio State University, Michigan State University, and Canes State University, in the quarter finals, Tech beat the University of Oregon, Augusta College (Rock Island, Ill.), which defeated Dartmouth in the finals for first place, best MIT in the semi-finals.