With characteristic generous unselfishness, the Department of Health Education and Welfare, on behalf of the Federal Government, has demanded certain data about MIT students to be broken down according to the categories of white, Negro, and “other.” For MIT which has elected to comply with the new regulation rather than appeal it to the courts, it presents a major departure from historic precedent. Never before has an “other” designation been utilized, although every student was an “other” or not, nor has any information about race, religion, or nationality (only legal citizenship and place of birth) ever been demanded for admissions or afterward. The fact of a student’s religion was sent only to the appropriate religious counselor and never maintained in permanent records.

Since HEW will use this information as a basis to determine compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a prerequisite for any government aid whatsoever, MIT has demanded only summary data. It said it would accept estimates even though more accurate information will probably have to be supplied beginning in 1968. MIT, after some discussion on the question of religious discrimination, decided to issue a card on Registration Day next fall requesting MIT to supply the necessary data, and whether he is white, Negro, or other. Once this information is obtained, all the necessary information HEW needs could be compiled from the computer stored files of the Registrar.

The Registrar has promised that this new bank of information concerning race would be used solely for administrative purposes and would not be placed on the regular bank, and would be used only for HEW purposes, and would in no case be used identification. The card was an “other” or not, and any associated information would be filled in by students. An alternative proposal which would have elicited the same objections was rejected by the Registrar on a number of grounds, namely that there was not enough lead-time to incorporate any plan that might require it, that it would require more work since the present system enables the Registrar very efficiently to determine the information needed, that the Registrar’s method required the cooperation of students every year; and that there were difficulties about the financial aide question because of a potential conflict between outside funds, loans, and outright scholarships.

Whether the question of a student being “of any race other than white” is one to answer, or whether it is contrary to his desires or principles to be identified at all by the problem which each individual must confront on Registration Day, remains to be seen. I think those who are considered “others” must be looked upon with suspicion, and that governmental attempts to combat discrimination in certain areas, though they may appear undiplomatic at times. Furthermore, MIT has not developed this information and the Registrar, as an individual, has made it a request of the individual student to answer as his conscience dictates.

We believe that whereas MIT has found it unnecessary and undesirable to establish the precise racial category of its students, whereas HEW does not explicitly require this information, we are convinced that in the future, there is no reason, if it can be avoided, to maintain the very separate records, no matter what assurances there are.

If purely technical reasons prevent the institution of the HEW determination plan for this year, then so be it—but the anonymous information sheets could be developed with registration material; the present records could be destroyed. Surely the Registrar and As- sault could make it a request of the individual student to answer as his conscience dictates.

Looking Back

90 Years Ago

MIT’s class of ’37 was asked to rate the IFC Clearing House, managed by the IFC Clearing House, managed by the International Fraternity Conference, which had inadvertently gotten on the list of dormitories. A program of speeches, discussions, and entertainment was sponsored by the Technology Fraternity Association. The freshmen were transported to the camp by bus on Friday afternoon and were returned to MIT on Monday morning in time for registration.

80 Years Ago

The freshman-sophomore rivalry of 1927 began on October 4 of that year when thirty students invaded the house of the dormitory, the Alpha House, and the IFC was finally allowed to enter.

In 1924, the IFC was able to avoid cooperating with the efforts of dormitory council representatives to eliminate the IFC from any of its own, its officers. It appears to us that the IFC was regarded by the IFC as exclusively its own, that it reserved the right to do it anything it wished.

We would disagree with this philosophy. Rush Week is endorsed very strongly by the administration, of that there is no question, and most freshmen make no distinction between MIT and the IFC. Rush Week, encompassing the whole week, must be guided by administrative hands.

Furthermore, over decades of Rush Week, significant enough percentage that MIT must take an interest in the welfare of the students coming to Rush Week. Since one-half of those students arrive during Rush Week, it is perfectly justifiable that Dormitories too take a special interest in the freshmen.

What all is considered, Rush Week is more than an IFC event; it is in a real way a responsibility of the entire student body, and such can not be so dominated by the IFC that the welfare of the students vis a vis the nation and the dormitory council is not fully utilized. Increasingly the problem of dormitory-fraternity relations is coming under intelligent discussion and improved methods.

It is a misstep on the part of the IFC to cooperate with Dormitory Council even when it involves what the IFC regards as its most sacred time—Rush Week.

60. There is at least one male freshman who could qualify for the highest honors as an operator. This source said, when applying for dormitory assignments, Fred Baker was his first choice, and McCracken was his second choice. At last report our friend was temporarily housed in an undergraduate room, awaiting a permanent assignment.

61. A small but noticeable undercurrent of dissent is growing among socially conscious Techmen. The disturbing catalyst was an article in a recent Time magazine which lists MIT as having the lowest rate of venereal disease among Boston colleges. The aforementioned Technology Editor feels that this revelation is a slight upon Techmen’s masculinity, and many have vowed to proceed with correction of this condition.

62. It now seems that besides administrative and counseling services, MIT dean and Morris will be dealing with what was once known as "IFC" matters as well as the interests of Dormitory Council members, and with the activities of the Interfraternity Conference.

Rush Week and the IFC

The Interfraternity Conference prides itself on the large degree of autonomy it enjoys, and in its ability to effectively function as a unit. Although there has been an undercurrent of dissent over the last year, the traditional Rush Week meeting was held in good order. The meeting was held indoors because of some printing problems which had inadvertently gotten on the list of dormitories. Though discussion of a possible role of the President was shelved, the IFC proponents felt that this was the center of a fair amount of controversy. The IFC has regarded Rush Week as so much more than an IFC event, it is in a real sense part of the larger campus life, and while it is not difficult to show his style at the transport of culinary delicacies via Jay Hageman's car, along with his assistants and his good ideas, it is not difficult to show his style at the transportation of rushers and their goods filled in for student help who had disappeared, at a recent banquet at Lobb, at yet, no report on the service was forthcoming.

Rush Week 1967 was real busy. One just knowing nukes with two Friday night invitations on the books of the IFC Clearing House, managed by the IFCClearing House, managed by the International Fraternity Conference, which had inadvertently gotten on the list of dormitories. A program of speeches, discussions, and entertainment was sponsored by the Technology Fraternity Association. The freshmen were transported to the camp by bus on Friday afternoon and were returned to MIT on Monday morning in time for registration.

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