Decision for the New Boston

For all its prominence among American cities, Boston has been a somewhat afraid of becoming a "big" city. It clung to its provincialism and its history with a tenacity that has signified great genius. Beacon Hill and Back Bay remained citadels of the Boston of another era, even as their own backyards changed dramatically as usual, and as usual downtown and politics as usual through out the wards for many years.

But as cities across the country have become centers of excitement, examination, Boston has had to learn that it is a lot closer to New York and Detroit than Newton and Wellesley. The cloud sprinkling of the New England atmosphere is only a symbol of a more profound change associated with the city's rightful emergence as a major city. It has learned that though it is the intellectual center of America, its major public schools are inadequate and substandard; the Roxbury ghetto was the first erosion of American's largest and hottest asphalt conditions are no longer laughable; the air and water are polluted. And the Red Sox have reminded the nation that Boston is indeed the city of the New England for the New England.

When the city desperately needs vision and understanding, Louise Day Hicks, the epitome of reactionary thinking and provincial planning, is leading the race for mayor. While there are problems of significance whose solutions lie even outside Boston itself, Mrs. Hicks would seek the answers in the neighborhoods. While the entire fabric of urban life has been found wanting, while there is upheaval and rapid change, Mrs. Hicks pays no attention to the associated fears and unrest of those who would return to the irreverable past.

It would be a mistake for the people of Boston to elect Mrs. Hicks. It is a terrible step backward for a city which has begun so notably to take its place among the big cities of America.

A word to '71

In two words, then, our advice is: "Get involved!" This campus provides innumerable opportunities for the interested student to do something. Be it athletics or activities, politics or social service, the possibilities are endless. We encourage you to take the student out of his room and into the mainstream of MIT life are numerous: the Midwest, this week's Open House, the recruiting, the part of all organizations here on campus, our own editorials.

Ultimately, however, the initiative must come from the freshman himself; he must decide that his stay here will be far more rewarding if only he will get involved.

MIT is an exciting place to go to school. We hope we can show you as much as we do. From all of The Tech, we wish you a very good year.