Technology Student Enterprises was created as an independent, franchised corporation by a group of interested students, as well as a means of providing entrepreneurial experience for interested students, and (b) it would perform services at low cost to the MIT Community.

TSE is the only recognized profit-making activity of MIT. That in itself is enough to make its relationship with the undergraduate community an uneasy one. But in addition, this fall TSE has been accused of making illegal solicitations by students who either have worked for TSE or who have had only peripheral dealings with it.

Students were greeted this fall by accusations concerning TSE's Collegiate Sampler service. At last year, Collegiate Samplers were being sold to MIT students. (Possession of a Collegiate Sampler constitutes the bearer to a substantial discount at many stores and theaters in the area.) This time, however, TSE stated the samplers were being sold without their authorization, and hence were being sold illegally. In addition, last year's Sampler agent was quoted in The Tech as saying that he refused to work for TSE again, charging that it is "impossible."

Other travel services cheaper

(2) TSE's Tech Travel Service is charging $265 for a round trip Christmas flight to California, while Crimson Travel Service, a commercial agency with no affiliation with Harvard, offers a round-trip ticket by jet to California for only $200 during Christmas. This discrepancy comes on the heels of charges last year that TSE's summer charter flights to Europe were overpriced.

Proposed tuxedo rental service hits snag

(3) This fall TSE was on the verge of inaugurating a Tuxedo Rental Service. A contract was signed between this proposed agency of TSE and Manhattan Formal Wear, stipulating that all tuxedos rented from Manhattan on the MIT campus would be handled through TSE. The result of this would have been two-fold. First, living groups which have in the past made their own arrangements for tuxedos for such events as Junior Prom with either Manhattan or Brooksline formal wear (which is now owned by Manhattan) for the price of $8.50 per tuxedos, would have had to pay $9.50 for the same tuxedo, the price TSE had tentatively decided to charge. Also, a Trial Committee, a group of students representing the Walking Duffing Staff, which supervises campus dances, would have been able to substitute its formal dance by revenue acquired by handling the tuxedo rentals for those attending the dance. The reason these effects would have been so severe is that Manhattan is the only formal wear agent in the entire Boston area which has enough tuxedos to fill the demand and is willing to offer them at a reduced price to the MIT Community.

The explanations for each of these occurrences are relatively straightforward, and it is only a matter of making BOTH explanations and discrepancies known.

Misunderstanding existed

(1) The problem with the Collegiate Samplers this fall was a misunderstanding among TSE, the previous Sampler manager, Joe Fiksel, and the owner of Collegiate Sampler. Fiksel refused to sell the samplers again, primarily because his profit for a quite a bit of work was under $10.00. TSE understood this, but the owner of Collegiate Sampler did not. Fiksel therefore arranged to have Globe selling the Sampler at MIT, thinking that arrangements similar to last year's were in effect. When the authorities were questioned as to who had authorized them, they gave the name of Joe Fiksel. He, of course, denied any knowledge thereof.