Collins seeks quiet role at MIT

By Robert Dennis

"It represents the city's change of character," I remarked to him after the conclusion of the meeting. "I am pleased to see the change in MIT's development of the city." This was the most surprising observation of Professor John F. Collins as, being interviewed by his fourth floor office in the Sloan Building, he gazed out the window toward the downtown Boston skyline that he was instrumental in building. After twenty-four years as Mayor of Boston, John Frederick Collins retired from City Hall at the beginning of this year to become a Visiting Professor of Urban Affairs. He has found his new job less hectic, for the majority of his time is spent on projects in urban affairs that have not yet been formally announced, one of Prof. Collins' other concerns is the proposed urban systems laboratory. Although he generally has not yet had much direct contact with students, he discussed city problems for three hours with about 100 students last week at a seminar in 10-250 sponsored by the Department of Civil Engineering entitled "Engineering for the Public Good." It is possible that he will be teaching this fall on urban affairs during the fall term. Prof. Collins has become much more involved with many important and direct relations throughout the nation with those involved in the urban crisis. Yesterday, he left for the University of Chicago to attend a weekend conference of the American Bar Association's Special Committee on Housing and Urban Development Law. He is also a member of a task force of the Department of Commerce which is studying the structure of state and local governments in relation to their ability to respond to technological change.

"Fortune is to be here"

A man whose appearance and manner reflect the dignity of the office he held, Prof. Collins summarizes his first two months at MIT as an "interaction of pressure." During this period during which he has been talking to everyone involved in MIT's effort to assist the troubled city, he has frequently been on his feet for as many as 14 hours a day. Some have been long-stressful periods in which he maintains that he is "fortunate to be here as the awareness of the need has become apparent."

Looking back upon his eventful years as the driving force behind the "New Boston," Prof. Collins takes great pride in noting that when he assumed office in January 1960, many people felt that the city had no future, and that his administration proved that this was not so. In addition to the restructuring of the city as a tax base, and a change in city fiscal structures that will bring in new revenues to balance the budget, Prof. Collins points to the formulation of long-range planning goals for the city as one of the many areas of progress in which his administration was concerned. Commenting on the recent report of the President's Commission on Civil Disorders, Prof. Collins declares that, although it did not mean anything actually new, it is significant for its call for a greater national commitment to the problem. Although he doubts that the resources will be available to tackle the situation, he believes that it is important that the report has at least made the people more aware of the gravity of the problem.

Prof. Collins, whose last salary in the political arena was an unsuccessful bid in 1966 for the U.S. Senate seat open by the resignation of John F. Kennedy. He called for the national commitment to the urban crisis which is studying the structure of state and local governments in relation to their ability to respond to technological change.

DIANA'S BARBER SHOP
332 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., CAMBRIDGE
Located next to Seymour Chevrolet
DIANA and HERBERT AT YOUR SERVICE
ALL TYPES OF HAIRCUTS HERE
(Long hair, short hair, European and our added specialties: razor cutting and extra board trimming)
FOR APPOINTMENT. PHONE 864-5588

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
MARCH 15-17
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JAMES C. THOMSON
BANQUET SPEAKER: EDWIN O. REISCHAUER
CHINA CONFERENCE
FRANK ARMBRUSTER (HUDSON INST.)
ALLANCOLE (TUFTS)
ANGUS FRAZER (IDA)
MERLE GODMAN
WILLIAM E. GRIFFITH (MIT)
AM. HALPERN
KENNETH YOUNG
BENJAMIN SCHWARTZ
LUCIAN PYE
DWPHT PERKINS
JOHN C. PEZEL
JON HOLDRISE (STATE DEPT.)
$7.00—NO TICKETS AT DOOR
REGISTER AT HOTEL CONTINENTAL (NEAR HARVARD)
FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2:30 PM

OUTLOOK
Professor Collins has expressed a desire for a "quiet academic life." Nevertheless, as he became accustomed to his new job, he will have an opportunity to become an even more influential figure. He is hopeful that he will offer the entire student body the advantages of his unique and invaluable experiences in public administration by speaking openly, with the forthrightness for which he is known, on how he believes our cities, state, and country, are being run.

HEADQUARTERS
- LEVI'S
- LEE'S
- WRANGLERS

CENTRAL WAR SURPLUS
Central Square, Cambridge
433 MASS. AVE.

SUMMER JOBS
and Career OPPORTUNITIES
BURLINGTON INDUSTRIES INC.
seeks
MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS
CHEMICAL ENGINEERS
CHEMISTS

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

For further information or to arrange for Cambridge interview
this month write:
MANAGER, TECHNICAL MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT
BURLINGTON INDUSTRIES RESEARCH CENTER
401 BOI 2135
GREENSBORO, N.C., 27420