An Education for our Times

Irruption and evolutions, and only in the whole process of the development and of the opportunity for it, in the university milieu of the experimental approach, as Louis Stevenson once said that it is a whole experiment. In a top-ranked university, this is likely to be understood, not as a means to prolong the life of MIT, but rather to keep the university active and alert. This is a task we must take on without delay.

In a larger form the necessity of support both governmental and privately based, seems even more urgent, if the country's great resources of education are to proceed at reasonable speed. We have had a good year judged by the way that our private sources of support individuals, corporations, and foundations have responded to our needs. Without that support, the outlook would be bleak. Indeed, the Federal sources are, understandably, to be relieved of the guaranteed support of a dean. I will continue to rely on Dan Brown, who becomes D. C. Jackson, Professor of Engineering, for a variety of advice and counsel. The MIT community and I, in any case, have difficulty in adequately expressing our gratitude and our enduring appreciation for all that these two remarkable men of MIT have done for us all.

This year has been a full one - a good one, as I have said, by ordinary measures, and one of extraordinary insight for all of us at MIT, it is only fitting to note, in closing, that our undergraduates' own characterization of this year, in their choice of the theme for the most unusual and original of the yearbook, was a dedication to the "awakening, steel." Throughout its history, MIT has experienced a continuous awakening, sparked by purpose and concerned with the education of leaders who could cultivate enlightened citizenship with a deep sense of concern for the quality of life.

Several are times of awakened caring, searching concerns and far-reaching expectation. MIT is a vigorous, effective and proud community, rare of its competence, wittingly to stand on its achievements, always insistently on seeking ahead. The support of wider community gives us all - faculty, students, staff and administration - a full confidence as we look in the next year and beyond.

HOWARD W. JOHNSON
October 4, 1968

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