

MIT purchases Simplex land *Albert, administration dispute sponsorship of Ford grant*

President Howard W. Johnson announced Friday that MIT has purchased the property of the Simplex Wire and Cable Company in Cambridge.

The Simplex holdings are approximately the size of Briggs Field and are located just north of the MIT campus. The price was not announced, but current land prices in Cambridge suggest that it was in the range of several million dollars.

The Institute announcement stressed that the land was not to be used for expansion of the academic campus, a touchy issue with the local community. Assistant City Manager Justin Gray had no official comment Friday afternoon. However, a source close to city hall reported that the initial private reactions there were skeptical.

Simplex will continue to operate on the site for several months before the Institute will take possession of the land. Simplex is now constructing a new plant in North Berwick, Maine, which will replace the Cambridge plant when it is completed.

MIT development

The announcement of the Simplex purchase does not represent the announcement of a comprehensive development plan such as was presented this spring when MIT presented its proposal for easing the Cambridge housing crisis. At this time, MIT has no definite plans for the site, except that it will be used for fully taxable (i.e., non-academic) commercial development which will most likely include market-rating housing for members of the MIT community and some sort of business which will employ members of the Cambridge community with a wide range of skills. Institute officials stressed that any business development of the site will not include any sort of heavy industry which will make the area undesirable for residence. Neither, they added, will it be strictly offices or a high technology industry which will be unlikely to supply jobs for many current citizens of Cambridge.

Avoids speculation

In explaining MIT's interest in the property, Assistant to the Chairman Walter Milne said that if MIT did not purchase the land, it would be taken by speculators who would be unable or unwilling to undertake a large-scale development which would be in the best interests of Cambridge.

Ex - McCarthyites organize Oct. academic moratorium

A nationwide moratorium on academic activities to dramatize opposition to the Vietnam war is being planned for October 15.

The moratorium, which is being organized by members of Senator Eugene McCarthy's campaign staff, is intended to be a day of political mobilization against the war.

The one day mobilization in October will be followed by a two-day effort in November, a three-day campaign in December, and so forth until President Richard Nixon achieves a negotiated settlement or announces a definite timetable for the return of all US troops.

The moratorium (the word "strike" was intentionally avoided) is not intended to pre-empt any other protest activity. It is instead intended to be a broadly based movement which will attract the support of students, faculty, and administration alike.

The plan has already been supported by over 100 college editors and student body presidents across the country.

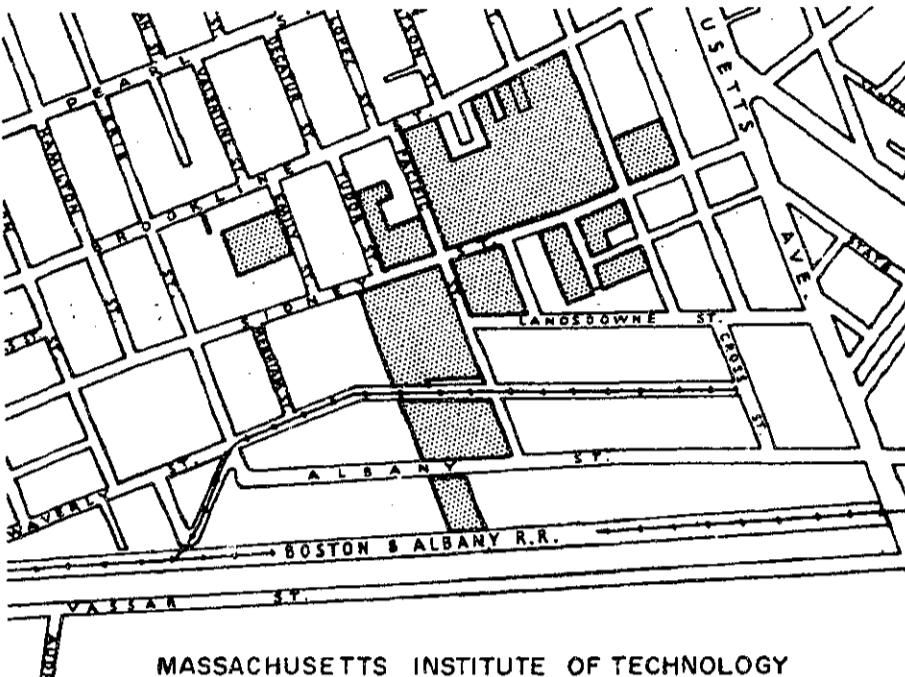
The nationwide effort is being co-ordinated from Washington by the Vietnam Moratorium Committee, which includes:

Although the Brookline-Elm A route for the Inner Belt goes through the property, Institute officials declined to make any assessments of how this purchase might affect the Belt problem.

Although local residents had been speculating for months that MIT had bought the property, Milne said that the matter had been discussed only during the last month, and that the

agreement was not final until Thursday.

The money for this move will come from the Institute's general investment funds. However, Assistant to the President Constantine Simonides stated that the Simplex acquisition was "not conceived as a financial venture," implying that MIT did not look upon this as a means of making a profit for the Institute.



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Simplex map—Map courtesy MIT Public Relations

Shaded area indicates Simplex property recently purchased by MIT. The total area of the land is roughly the same as Briggs Field.

Report claims discrimination

By Greg Arenson

Just before the issuance of the report from Vice-President Jack Ruina's Task Force on Equal Opportunity, Robert Tinker G VIII has charged that there is "substantial discrimination against blacks in employment" at MIT.

Tinker first became interested in equal opportunity problems in the summer of 1967, when an artist friend of his with no technical experience got a job as a technician at MIT having to learn the skills on the job. Tinker felt that underprivileged people could be trained just as easily as an artist.

Ad Hoc Committee

Since then Tinker has been actively pursuing the problem of discrimination at MIT. He was originally asked to

serve on the Ruina Task Force, but declined because of the time commitment he thought it would take. However he has helped form an Ad Hoc Committee on Job Training and Education which has tried to locate blacks and get them hired and trained by MIT.

The Ad Hoc Committee has put nine blacks in positions as technicians, seven of whom Tinker says are now indistinguishable from other employees in terms of performance. They have also hired Mr. Lynch, manager of Burton House, to help them recruit in the black ghettos. Tinker would like to see this Committee become the administrator of MIT's job training program instead of the Personnel Office.

Other members of the Ad Hoc Committee include: Professor Peter Demos, Director of the Lab for Nuclear Science; John Carley, Personnel Officer for Training and Information; Louis Menand, Assistant to the Provost; Lynch; Professor Michael Feld; and James Allison, Opportunity Development Officer.

Tinker presents his views in a report which was submitted to Assistant to the President Constantine Simonides with an effective date of June 1, 1969. Tinker has figures which show that on January 1, 1969 only 299 of a total of 9661 MIT employees were black. This is 3.1% of the work force. Over the last five years the labor force at MIT has grown by 640 people annually, while the blacks have increased by an average of 31.2 people annually. This yields an average increase in the percentage of black MIT employees of .19% annually.

More figures

Director of the Personnel Office Robert Davis gives some additional figures. He claims that one must exclude Lincoln Laboratory when discussing this issue because of the transportation problem. If Lincoln is excluded, MIT employs 3.8% blacks in office-clerical work, and 8.0% blacks in the hourly wage categories. These latter categories include everyone from

UAP Mike Albert '69 and the administration tangled this month in a dispute over sponsorship of a research project that Albert and a group of friends hoped to carry out this summer.

The disagreement arose after the administration refused to act as a sponsoring agency for a grant that Albert hoped to receive from the Ford Foundation to finance his group's efforts. Institute sponsorship of Albert's grant would have been necessary in order for his group to receive the money, since the Ford Foundation cannot make grants to individuals, but must instead give the money to a non-profit organization such as MIT.

Support for the Grant

According to Provost Jerome Wiesner, the administration officer who supervises the overall direction of MIT's research efforts and was most deeply involved in the Albert affair, Albert first approached him this spring to inquire about the possibility of MIT support for a summer study of university reform and the place of the university in society. Later, Albert changed his mind about seeking Institute money, and talked to Wiesner about the possibility of support from a private foundation. Wiesner said that he was in favor of Albert's project and allowed him to use his name as a reference. Albert then approached Ford independently with his proposal.

Ford then contacted Wiesner. The Ford officer who contacted the Provost stated, according to Wiesner, that he had "some confidence" that at least part of the \$17,500 Albert had requested for his group of thirteen students would be awarded, if MIT would assume responsibility for the administration of the grant. In the past, MIT has not had a policy concerning sponsorship of student grants. In the case of administering grants obtained by faculty members, the decision is ordinarily made by Wiesner. In case of large, controversial, or classified research, the decision is made by the Academic Council, the Institute's highest faculty-administration decision-making body. The Academic Council is composed of the President, the Vice Presidents, the Deans, the members of the Provost's office, and a few others.

In an interview with this reporter a week and a half ago, Albert said that Wiesner warned him initially that there might be some difficulty arranging the terms of sponsorship of the project, but that it was clear that the funding would eventually be arranged. Albert quoted Wiesner as saying that "(President Howard) Johnson was afraid of having the project," because it would mean funding a left-wing study and that he was afraid of opposition from trustees and alumni.

Political Difficulties

After some maneuvering, the proposal was presented to the Academic Council. In that body, it ran into much opposition. Wiesner said that the objections raised included: Albert's group represented only one range of student opinion, and that it should not be funded unless a "counter" project was also funded; the project would conflict with the Planning Group for the Commission on the Nature and Purpose of an MIT Education; the project would not follow standard appointment and hiring practices required of all MIT research projects. Wiesner declined to identify those members of the Academic Council who raised these objections. Albert, however, named Johnson, Associate Provost Walter

SDS factions clash here; WSA opponents in caucus

The split in SDS which flared at that organization's recent Chicago convention has erupted at MIT.

A running conflict between the Worker-Student Alliance faction and a coalition of non-WSA people began when SDS's New England organizer, Eric Mann, called a meeting of the non-WSA people in the Bush Room for July 17. The meeting was disbanded after a violent confrontation with WSA interlopers.

A further meeting for the non-WSA group, which includes most members of the MIT Resistance, was scheduled for Sunday, July 20. However, that meeting was cancelled and replaced by a caucus held Sunday night, to which the press was not invited.

The conflict arose over the use of the name SDS. Since Chicago, both the WSA and the non-WSA faction which includes the Revolutionary Youth Movement and a variety of other factions loyal to the outgoing slate of SDS national officers, have claimed to be the "true" SDS.

In the conflict on July 17, about forty non-WSA people from MIT and other schools met. About fifteen WSA people arrived, they were asked to leave by Mann and his group. After some verbal and physical conflict, the WSA group was ejected.

They quickly summoned reinforcements, however, and shortly fifty WSA members stormed into the Bush Room. Further verbal and physical conflict followed, but the non-WSA group disbanded their meeting before any major fight erupted.

The WSA members told the other faction that any further attempts on the part of the Mann group to meet would be disrupted, violently if necessary.

By Sunday, the attempt to hold another meeting of the non-WSA faction at the home of one of the members had been abandoned. Members of the faction said that they were instead going to meet that evening. They said that their meeting was considered to be a caucus of a faction of SDS, and not an SDS meeting. This condition, they said, satisfied WSA's requirement that they not meet as SDS. Since it was a caucus and not a regular meeting, the press was not permitted to attend.

The most basic difference between the WSA group and the non-WSA group is the former's authoritarianism. This gives the WSA a considerable edge in terms of ideologically permitted tactics, and could be the source of further discomfort for Cambridge institutions in the coming year.