Defense research: facts and myths

[Ed. Note: Here are the start points for some of the great research balancings.]

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Dr. C. Stark Drake, Director of the Instrumentation Laboratory, President of Lincoln Laboratory, Pro- vost of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, President of the Information Sciences Institute, etc. Each of these groups keeps different records, with the result that the useful output or working on any pro- ject. Another which makes this difficult is the number of people working on any single project. Because the problems involved are so complicated that they can easily charge their time to some other one.

Because faculty members can charge part of their time (and their salaries) against a research project, MIT can support a larger staff than it could otherwise support. This hidden sup- port is one of the subsidies that funded research projects.

Space, accounting, costing, light, power, and other indirect charges for a project are usually lumped together and treated as overhead charges. Through these charges, government agencies or industry, MIT's faculty, and industry's employees in support of the project, and are billed for the use. The charges also serve the important function of subsidizing other activities. As an example of this, MIT operates a project at the Instrumentation Laboratory because much of the research done at the Laboratory is devoted to large computer systems that are the responsibility of the computer department in the Engineering College.