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**Oppenheimer** interviewed

(Ed. note: Due to the Symposium being held today on the issues raised in the play "In the Matter of J. Robert Oppenheimer," we felt it was fitting to reprint this interview with Mr. Robert Oppenheimer, "Father of the Atomic Bomb" and Dr. Edward Teller, who has been one of the prosecuting attorneys.)

By Greg Arenson

"This play, in our view, is not a play about a specific hearing, but it is a play about issues which are desperately important to the world today, and which will continue to be important to us for a thousand years, maybe, as long as people are incapable of handling what science can produce."

This statement by Mr. Sparer shows why the play is a suitable topic for a symposium at MIT. It raises many issues about the relation between science and society.

One of the issues Sparer thought the play raised was "the advisability of producing something like the MIRV or the hydrogen bomb in the context of the emotional state of the world and of our limited intelligence."

Dr. Teller in the play gives the opposing viewpoint that the possibilities of the hydrogen bomb in the context of the emotional state of the world are limited by our lack of understanding."

Sparer extended this remark, "It sounds so simple. Rather than have a stringent security system and have somebody bugging everybody's bed and what not, you simply have to have a way of life that is so profoundly good that people will follow it."

Sparer contrasted this to the "channelized thinking of another security officer in the play, Major Rados. "In the area in which he operates, he probably has a great deal of expertise. But that is a tiny channel, compared to what the other characters, like Oppenheimer and Sparer and Teller, think. This is the kind of thing that happens in a world which depends on specialization and expertise."

Dr. Evans said the judges in the play, repeatedly asks, "What kind of people are physicists?" Sparer replied, "The openness of their approach to things in the end is their science." The implication was that they have fewer preconceptions. He amplified upon this theme, "I begin to wonder what people would think of these scientists as being 'arrogant'. When you begin to ask them a

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