MIT bracing for House bill’s effects

by John Kavanasjin (ed. note: This is the second of three articles)

The bill containing the Man-
field Amendment has not even
reached Congress yet, and already
MIT administration is work-
ning in anticipation of some of
the changes that may come in
the processing of research grants
and in long range planning. The
unofficial, and unofficial study
from anyone in the ad-
ministration is an information
story by President of the School
of Science, Robert A. Albery. This
interpretation of the phrase,
“direct and apparent relation-
ship to a specific military func-
tion or operation.” Alberty
seems to believe the amend-
ment will be broad and general.
The point that is emphasized is
that most research in the field of
science and technology can be
stretched to the defense mission.
Since military systems require
the highest level of applied science
and technology for their design
and implementation, the scope
of relevant science is almost un-
limited...” The administration,
however, is not waiting and
counting on this tenacious con-
ception or pre-existing legit-
mate reason to reject the De-
Fence Department ex-
emption.

Albery seems to think that if
DOD funds were withdrawn,
MIT could meet the challenge,
by working harder to get the
(hopefully) resulting increase in
HEW, HUD, and NSF funds. In
this though, he acknowledges
a major problem: government so-
cial service agencies have a histo-
ry of being very hard to get con-
tracts out of as compared with
DOD.

The question does arise
though, what if none of these
retention measures work? There
will most certainly have to be
cutbacks. The major cutbacks
would be in the categories of
Research Assistantship gradu-
ate students, and Assistant Pro-
fessors,—all of which directly
depend wholly or in part on
DOD funds. There would also be
major cutbacks in the area of
student help. In short, 200 Re-
search Assistantships for faculty
salaries, grad student research
supplies, over $4 mil-
lion in operating costs, and
$880,000 in computing expen-
ses would still be in jeopardy,
according to the Albery paper.

Besides these considerations,
there is a great deal of specula-
tion on the effect of the Man-
field Amendment on long range
housing and academic facility
planning. Cuts in research and
the grad school could set back
further projected new build-
ings such as the future new
Electrical and Chemical Engi-
neering building and the mul-
tipostponed housing projects such
as McGregor II and the West
Camus renovations.

MIT will most likely not feel
the effects of this Amendment
right away, though. Any changes
in policy and spending patterns
would most likely not be sud-

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