During January, The Tech suggested that the presidency search bureaucracy make a fresh effort to locate a new candidate for a new chief executive by distributing the criteria it had established. Subsequently, the Corporation Joint Advisory Committee (CJAC) did release a list of specific page three) but we rather doubt now that this will prove a fruitful move.

The material CJAC released reveals to the community very little of that group's thoughts on the presidency. The list is certainly non-controversial: none of the items could be expected to provoke any complaints, and nothing appears to have been omitted. Summarizing the list does not actually create a new policy or program: it remains unenforceable and simply lists the important criteria CJAC set. Which is more crucial, for example — that "the candidate...be effective with sources of funding"? Answers to questions like this, not a bland list of personality traits, will determine the type of man to succeed Professor Jerrold Zacharias for calling our attention to the presidency. We are grateful that CJAC even had a list, but we can not hold, however, that the recently released set of criteria represents a rather shallow effort to select the campus in the selection of MIT's next president.

Letters to The Tech

(EDITOR'S NOTE: While not addressed to The Tech, we believe the following letter has its own story to tell about another engineering education at MIT. We gratefully reproduce it in its entirety in case of our failure to call to our attention to it. Shurwood was formerly Dean of the School of Engineering.)

September 23, 1954

Dean C. Richard Soderberg

Dear Dean,

I am concerned about the inadequacies of our system of engineering education. I am writing to summarise my thinking about the problem of how it might be improved. Contrary to many public statements, I believe that MIT has not shown leadership in this area in recent years. We have refined and improved the system continuously over the years and have been proud of our accomplishments, but my suspicion is that the system is wrong — that we have been modernising a battle-tank when air power is needed. More frequent discussions of engineering education by the faculty of the School of Engineering would seem desirable.

I suggest that the pattern of engineering education has not changed appreciably in more than sixty years as it is itself grounds for suspicion that stagnation has set in. We continue to stamp men as graduates after four years of residence. The four years are spent in the 1890,"taking" a series of subjects which make up a curriculum. Subjects are made up of lectures, recitations, problem assignments, and question and answer "experiments" (which are not experiments at all) continue to be done also to work in about the same proportion. The system proceeds along the typical curriculum, as for example, in mechanical engineering, rate students by a grading system which shows a highly unsatisfactory correlation with the performance of students in graduate engineering.

I believe that we call "students" players who sawed away contin- unities on a single note. His wife remarked to him that other "students" players seemed to move their fingers up and down the strings, playing monotonously on a single sound. "Oh!" replied the man, "you are looking for the note I've found it!" I cannot believe that in engineering education we are not making better music.

It is true that a great many changes have been made within the confines of the pattern. Sub- ject matter has been condensed and is used more efficiently. Mathematics is used more efficiently and effectively. Subjects dealing with engineering practices have been eliminated to make room for more "fundamentals." The programs in the humanities has been strengthened and students are now permitted to devote 20 per cent of their four years in this area, though the minimum re- quirement of 12 hours remains un- changed. (This change in the humanities, though hardly earth- shaking, has been in my opinion publicized.) But these changes are not much to be proud of and we should be ashamed of ourselves if they had not been made. The pattern of the curriculum remains unchanged. MIT is not unaffected by the creeping regimentation which appears to be strangling the health development of educational practices in all areas. At its worst, in many states schools, the bad effects of this system regres- sion are not hard to recognize. Formulas for automatic pay in- crease, over 20 per cent of the years of service, formulas for teaching loads, and all such make it impossible for a school to get top-flight professors, and a vicious downward spiral is in- itiated. (The Dean of another school once told me that I was not the first director of this mens..."

CJAC criteria

The Wizard of ID

THE WIZARD OF ID appears daily and Sunday in the Boston Herald Traveler.

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

Lexicographer sees new interpretations

By M.J. Kalbert

A front page article in The Washington Post of February 7, 1971, described the manner in which Federal Bureau of Investigation Director J. Edgar Hoover covers his tracks in his annual testimony before Congress on the affairs of the FBI in general and in particular the number of phone taps his agency has in operation at the time. Quite simply, the Director orders his agents to turn off the wiretaps for a day or two before and after his testimony on Capitol Hill. Thus, the taps remain in place ready to use, but they are not technically in operation. Hence J. Edgar Hoover has always been able to state with absolute cer- tainty that less than 100 FBI wiretaps are in operation during his yearly accounting to the legisla-

Expeditionary Bureaucrat: Similar statements emanating periodically from the Pentagon, State Department, White House, and any other government agency which has a scandal on its hands that it wishes to keep from the public suggest that facility in translating from Ex- peditionary Bureaucratic to English is a prerequisite to understanding standing and asking people who are paid by the people to perhaps work for the people in government of the people. Here- with we present A Primer of Expeditionary Bureaucrat English for your education, sir.

Consider the following question: Committee Chairman Goldwater... could you please tell the committee, sir, if it wouldn't be too much trouble, how many wiretaps the FBI is currently operating? Answer: The FBI currently has 82 wiretaps in operation.

The Washington Post: Question: I really have to ask this question, all-powerful one, so don't you think it might be a bit impolite and pretty please don't look the other way when I'm asking for my working session with my secretary over the weekend in a certain hotel room in downtown Washington.

The Washington Post: Only the second... Answer: The FBI currently in operation only the 82 wiretaps I didn't order my agents to turn off yesterday at noon until tomorrow noon. The reasons these are in operation are naturally those of the farthest left of the Senators and Congressmen who would be trusted even for a day not to send the files to the CIA or the Red, or possibly the oval of a certain former Wall Street law- firm. The FBI has been in operation for years ago and after an absence of eight years, the FBI has been in operation for years. I'm sure you'll see some of line some day. As long as I have your august company, the order will go out to busywire the 4000 wiretaps which were turned off yesterday. Of course, this does not mean that the electronic surveillance designed and installed and used under the operational control of one of the other 59 agencies with authority to tap phones and bug rooms.

The Washington Post: Question: Reporter, Mr. McClory, are there any US troops in Cambodia?

(Continued on page 6)