Ellsberg urges resistance

By Seth Raemson

Dr. Daniel Ellsberg encouraged a student-union audience at MIT to adhere to the American tradition of participating in the 'war of resistance' rather than be a part of the government that started it.

Ellsberg’s speech, delivered Wednesday night by the MIT Peace Coalition and highlighted the commitment of student leaders to legal action in response to the speech, some members of the audience attended one of the five Princeton national meetings held by the dozen peace organizations that have come together to form the peace coalition.

American life has become similar to prison life due to fear and violence and secrecy in both institutions, Dr. Ellsberg contended. He felt that those who fail to resist American bureaucracies are part of that system and that the mere appearance of some officials has many analogies to that of the federal government, Americans to speak out and be heard, to be part of the law. Ellsberg contended that 'prison guards feel like prisoners and that many people of youth and the years have been living in a parallel between American life and prison institutions.

But the atmosphere Ellsberg said at the Mayday rally at the JFK building last spring was not one of a prison institution but that of a community of risk and resistance. The federal employees who formed a circle around the Kennedy building in protest of the Pentagon raid and police and marched around it feeling themselves as federal employees for peace strengthened this community.

Ellsberg contended that he heard stories of their bosses’ depreciation of their activities. After the speech ‘of the CIA, he heard stories of threats it. Several employees for be a part of the government—that aged a student-president’s audience around the Kennedy building.

Vetotaunt; the fears of many el l l se ci contends. He felt, that those had similar to prison life—due to don one’s fears of off peace coalition. The decision to resist institutional bureaucracy and abandon one’s fears of official reaction is one Dr. Ellsberg advises highly. Ellsberg cited Rose Parks, whose courage sparked Dr. Martin Luther King’s Montgomery bus boycotts, as an example of someone who one day just decided not to go along with the system. Sitting in the white section of a bus with several burned-out cars and in a fire-furred, she refused to surrender her seat to a white man which led to her arrest and imprisonment. America needs more heroes like her, Ellsberg contended, and to give people like her the recognition they deserve, instead of resolving it exclusively for astronauts.

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