Locke cites soaring costs

(Continued from page 1) "A lot of the budget increase has come from two sources: an increase in system size, and the process of 'catching up' in terms of quality," Locke said. The funding of the libraries had not been sufficient before he became director, so part of the budget rise went into building them up; the amount has increased from $330,000 in 1954 to $2 million in 1972 (excluding the Engineering Library ($2.5 million including it)), for that same period, Dewey has become four times larger, Rotch has added a floor, and the Student Center and Laidigene Libraries have been opened. Comparisons of quality, as opposed to quantity, are difficult to make, but most observers concede an increase in the quality of the system.

Costs in the system are skyrocketing, with materials going up much more quickly than salaries. Books are going up in price 10% per year, journals 15% and serials 23%; this accounts for 28% of the budget. 70% of the budget is salaries, but these have been going up more slowly in the library system than among faculty. Locke noted that the Alberty report had been inaccurate in this respect.

Locke's other criticism was the failure by the controller to account for new libraries in compiling budget figures. If such allowance is made, the budget has not grown much faster than that of the rest of the Institute.

The question of storage is a difficult one: the entire on-campus book stock is not only difficult to make, but costly to implement. "It costs as much as $5 to remove the book from the shelf, get the cars out into the catalog all over campus, and then actually dispose of it; it only costs 10 cents per year to keep it. But when we have ten copies of a 1920 textbook, the decision to throw it away is an easy one. Decisions about some of the novels we bought in the 20's and 30's are another matter. We have a space problem, no doubt about it."

It is hoped to work on this kind of problem after his retirement. To computerize such information, a history of art, that requires positively expensive, but he has publicly predicted that, if costs continue, if they ask for an off-campus book, the wait can be as long as a highway. This is not the kind of service a good university provides.

Questions of control of library acquisitions is a very complicated one, and Locke offered no simple solution. He did say that it is imperative that written guidelines be laid down to prevent every library on campus from becoming a major general library; such a phenomenon would be completely unsupportable, it is the current tendency.

At this time, "acquisition policy is all loopholes, and almost no rules. But a policy of strict rules and no loopholes would be overly restrictive and difficult to administer. We need some kind of middle ground, according to Locke.

The library has two Associate Directors and two Assistant Directors. The alumni and potential candidates for the post of Director require recommendations are being accepted from anyone in the MIT community. Without an über-casting of a successor will be made by Provost Walter Rosenbloom, who will take his recommendation to the Academic Council for final approval. Locke noted that the effective date of the resignation is June 30th, and that the administration seems intent on accepting that.

By Bert Halsted The Cambridge City Council has ordered an investigation into the possibilities of collecting new taxes from Harvard and MIT. At the meeting on Monday, March 6, an order was proposed by Councilor Alfred Veluccio to take a survey of "taxable property used by members of the faculty and staff and students of Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a view towards levying the personal property tax provided for in Chapter 62 of the General Laws," and requiring "the Solicitor to determine whether certain intangibles owned by the universities are subject to taxation under Chapter 62 of the General Laws." The order was passed without a dissenting vote.

According to a source in the City Clerk's office, the Solicitor has rendered his opinion as re

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