By Mike McNamee

An article in last Thursday’s Harvard Crimson accused MIT Vice-president of Operations Philip Stoddard of a conflict of interest in his actions with regard to the installation of a copying service in the Tech Coop.

The article claimed that Stoddard, who is also Chair and Vice-president of the Coop, had blocked the installation of a branch of Copyquick, Inc., in the MIT store in order to protect the Institute’s Graphic Arts Service.

Last winter, Copyquick offered to install a copying service in the Tech Coop. The company was prepared to build the copying equipment, and would use the Coop’s copiers and billing facilities. In return, the Coop was to receive free duplicating and a monthly fee for the computer use. Stoddard requested at that time that installation of the MIT store be delayed until his department completed a study it was conducting of the Graphic Arts Service. He hoped that the results of the study, due this month, would allow the Service to be revived and its prices lowered. Copyquick then agreed to set up its facilities in the Harvard Square Coop.

"The article in the Crimson is not at all a proper portrayal of the situation," said Howard Davis, general manager of the Coop. "Until very recently, Copyquick was not in a financial position to operate in such stores. And, of the two, the Harvard Square store has a much larger volume of business. It was clearly the better location for the facilities." Davis said that the Coop does not profit by the deal with Copyquick: "The fees we receive just cover the use of our billing services, and we lose on the loss of selling space. We made these arrangements with Copyquick in order to provide a service for our customers."

Recently, the Coop has been a center of controversy: the contested election and labor problems. "Some people are apparently trying very hard to embarrass us," said Stoddard. "In this case, it seems to me, Mr. Fox, the former comptroller of the Coop, who handled our dealings with Copyquick; he has since left the management of the store, and is very disgruntled with the present managers."

Stoddard said that the study of the Graphic Arts service had been underway since the Copyquick offer; he thought it "quite possible" that the findings would allow the MIT service to lower its rates significantly. "Actually, MIT students have a commercial service within two blocks of campus now," Stoddard added. "One of our problems is that most students don't even know about our service.

"By Cliff Ragdale

Today, November 7, Election Day, people throughout the state will go to the polls to elect the President for the next four years and, depending on that district's voting pattern, on a range of local issues. In Middlesex County, the vote will choose two commissioners and one treasurer. The two duties for commissioners, James R. Schlesinger announced

"The Atomic Energy Commission has chosen Mason Benedict, Institute Professor in Nuclear Engineering, to receive its Fermi Award in 1972. According to a story in the Boston Globe, ABC Chairman James R. Schlesinger announced Friday that President Nixon had approved the recommendation of the AEC and its General Advisory Committee. Benedict said the award came as a surprise to him and that it made him feel very "humble." He stated that he would use part of the $25,000 prize which accompanies the award to continue a scholarship which his father initiated, Robert Chilton, co-owner of Copyquick, confirmed the report's statement that the company couldn't have afforded to operate the Copyquick stores earlier. "We were quite happy to go to the Tech Coop; we've done good business there," Chilton told The Tech. "Even if we were not offered the opportunity of the Tech Coop now, it would take a lot of work to start up the feasibility to the plan, and about thirty days to install the equipment."

"In the meantime, I'd say we could offer a service at MIT at the rate of 3-1-cents (the Graphic Arts rate is 5-2-cents) and do pretty well with it," Chilton refused to comment on the question of conflict of interest.

The other side of the question was raised by Donald Donskis, former chairman of the Law School Coop and member of the board, who is currently involved in litigation against the store due to invalidation of his petition of candidacy in last year's election of the board (The Tech, October 31). "I feel there was a breach of parliamentary procedure in Stoddard's case; he wanted to accomplish his political purpose even if it meant denying the students of MIT access to a cheaper service," Donskis said. "This is a matter that should have been handled by the Tech Coop, not taken as a management decision. Howard Davis should have been the one to decide whether to continue with the Coop, he replied, "It's not a vendetta, it's just me disagreeing with a management that has been conflicting us.

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