The Draper Labs are in the process of being directed by MIT, and this process is scheduled for completion on June 30 of next year. According to Vice President for Research Albert G. Hill, the annual research volume at Draper is about $60 million, of which 90% is funded by the federal government. Fully 70% comes from the Department of Defense. At Lincoln Labs, virtually all work is government-supported. Since the early 1960s, about 90% of it is paid for by DOD money. "In my opinion the government should not change that," says Hill. "The Air Force, Lincoln Labs is a very good example of this. The first year or two of funding is very poor, and the government has to support it."

Hill says that Lincoln Labs is a "very unique" laboratory. About 90% of its employees are MIT students, "just like Division of Research." All its employees are MIT students, he says. "They work with you to prepare your thesis, and so on."

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Unfortunately, this blow could be on the way. President Nixon's selection of Caspar Weinberger to be the new head of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare does not bode well. He is known as a "budget-cutter," and, if H.E.W., which funds the traineeships, should decide to terminate the program, it would do by attrition, the number of recipients decreasing every year, until after a couple of years it would cease to be a significant source of graduate student support. Even so, graduate enrollment at MIT is up 2% this year, from 3250 to 3328, contracted with a 1.2% decrease in freshmen. This is in spite of no great increase in loan funds, and an increase in research assistantships which only just compensates for the decrease in fellowship and trainee-ship support. Stone attributes this to "our growing interest in interdisciplinary research." He has serious doubts about the next year or two, though, because "present government sources just can't continue to support" the same numbers of graduate students.

According to Graduate School Executive Officer Ronald S. Stone, the only federal support that is likely to remain by 1975 is about 170 National Institute of Health traineeships and around 200 NSF fellowships (compared to approximately 300 federal fellowships and traineeships in 1968-69), and even these are subject to uncertainty. Fellowships are awarded directly to students by the fellowships-giving agency, and the student may take the fellowship to any graduate school he chooses. So far, MIT has been fortunate. This year, 14% of the NSF fellowships recipients chose to study here, compared to 43% last year. We can only hope that NSF recipients continue to find MIT attractive.

Traineeships are first awarded to the Institute, which then selects the students who will receive them. By 1975, virtually the only remaining federal support in this area will be the NIH traineeships. The elimination of these, says Stone, "would be a real, real blow."