Secretaries' jobs: menial?

By Michael Garry

Complaints by secretaries and clerical workers at the Institute and other Boston area firms are arising concerning the wages and roles of secretaries in institutions and businesses.

According to a recent article in the Boston Red Paper, MIT is a member of the Boston Survey Group, a "shadow" consortium of about 50 large employers in the Boston area that regulates the wages and working conditions of secretaries. The Red Paper stated that the Survey Group, by monopolizing the large employers in the area, sets the standard for wages throughout Boston, Harvard, the First National Bank, and John Hancock Insurance were also cited as members of the group.

MIT administration answered the Red Paper's charges by implying that wages for secretaries at the Institute are "at least as good as anywhere else."

Vice President for Administration and Personnel John Wyne acknowledged MIT's membership in the Survey Group, but stated that the group kept a "very tight" control over salaries and did not regulate them.

MIT added that the Survey Group's statistics to stay competitive in the secretarial job market, according to (Kerry) Wilson, Wage and Salary Administrator. "MIT's concern is to stay competitive, keep on top of the market and depend on its knowing what the going wage rates are."

Wilson stated: "I feel even now we are well in line." Mr. Rubin told his audience that 25 percent of the Red Cross had increased, "We were taken to the Red Cross if they needed, to Wendy. Goodman of the Pub-lication, also pointed to the fact that we have rather unusual, according to (Wendy) Goodman of the Public-ity Committee. Wednesday, for instance, ten donors were taken to the Red Cross Regional Center in Boston, where they made a direct donation for an open-heart surgery.

Goodman explained that the blood type needed for the opera- tion was A-negative, and that the drive organizers were to follow other emergency demands for specific blood types by find- ing donors. The Spring Blood Drive is one of several drives held at MIT each year. The Institute tradi-tionally donates blood to allow members of the community and their immediate families access to free blood from the Red Cross if they need it. Rubin told The Tech that, although situations have been falling off in recent years, MIT has still got to retain the free-blood service.

"Still, we need more blood donors," Rubin stated. "This is the last week of the drive, and people are needed to donate now."

Blood donations off 25%

By Kevin Miller

The Spring Blood Drive now entering its second week, may fall short of its goal of 2000 units of blood donated by as much as 25 percent. "It's rather surprising," said Ruth Gull Ruthin, Publicity Chairman for the drive, indications from the first week of the drive show that the projected total donation is roughly 1500 units of blood. The goal of 2000 units has been met each year for the past three years.

This year's Blood Drive has been rather unusual, according to (Wendy) Goodman of the Public-ity Committee. Wednesday, for instance, ten donors were taken to the Red Cross Regional Center in Boston, where they made a direct donation for an open-heart surgery.

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Blood donations off 25%

News Analysis

Richardson sees Watergate good

(Continued from page 11)

silly, at least in the conservative Republican tradition by calling for reduced and decentralized government, and openly deplored the way that stating "over a long time," the public and "outraged at the fact that we have been shared by secretaries every-day. The Watergate incident, in that secretaries have no impact," said can- diate Richardson, who cited these feelings as the source of the great public outpouring which occurred when he was fired.

Richardson told his audience that the first step towards dia-gnosis of government power is to "sort out governmental func-tions that are not involved in the secretaries."

He concluded with the obli-gatory statements that "honest politics is good politics," and "'t isn't smart to be too smart." oblivious, that is, in the light of post-Watergate morality.

The new "post-Watergate" culture, Richardson said, is dif-

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Larry's Barber Shop

for "that well-groomed look"

Razorcutting, nun hemmp facial
545 Tech Square
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against a "certain amount of cNazism," Wilson stated, "to allow us mem-
bers to gather the statistics necessary if they are to stay competitive in the secretarial market. Wilson expressed "per-
sonal remorse" to the charges made by the Red Paper.

Secretarial complaints are being spotlighted currently as the annual review of salaries of bi-weekly employees is starting. Bi-weekly employees (those em-ployees who are paid twice a month) include secretaries and other clerical workers. James Callion, Assistant to Wyne, told The Tech that he hoped the review would lead employees to talk to their secretaries about their performance something that Callion says has been lacking in the past.

Other complaints

Wages aren't the only thing that are bothering MIT secre-
taries, however. According to Mary Rowe, Special Assistant to the President and Chancellor for Women and Work, there is also a growing concern about the conditions under which secre-
taries work.

"What piques secretaries most," Mary Rowe says, "is to be treated like objects." The degree to which employees ap-
prove of their job, she said, "is a good indication of the amount of res-
ponsibility and adult treatment they are given." These problems are shared by secretaries every-where, Rowe said. In view of the complaints she has received from secre-
taries working in other institutions, Rowe stated that MIT is probably among the least worst of employers.

In a list will be compiled by secre-
taries at the Centers for International Studies in 1972, it was stated that they were particularly deployed being looked upon as "housekeepers" expected to "answer personal phone calls, run errands and pay bills." The secretaries demanded a set of guidelines which, "either state in writing that a secretary should not be asked to do her boss' personal work at MIT's expense."