'71 slump cuts enrollments

Source: E.J.C. Data ("Liberal" value based on U.S. Government estimate)

U.S. Engineering Manpower Supply and Demand

(Continued from page 2) We've found here that parents are far more worried about it than students.

The sharp decrease in enrollment of engineering students well-publicized, another factor that influenct enrollments. "It was one of the first times since the Depression that a large group of professional people was thrown out of work, or mass," Bruce said. "Naturally, it got a lot of attention." People don't think that professionals have employment problems. "I suspect that a lot of the people layed off in the '71 crunch were people who were not productively employed, and these were the people who found it hardest to get new jobs," Bruce continued. He added that he had not seen too many articles on the rising demand for engineers.

Internal trends

Bruce said that he was mainly interested in local, internal trends in engineering education at MIT. The growing number of students who are entering the engineering schools must "enter" other technical fields. "They're worried about the impact of these trends on the MIT environment," he said. "More and more engineering majors are leaving MIT before entering some profession." Bruce said that there is a large number of students who are not preprofessional, and that MIT is a "street" into other technical fields. "We're running out of books—re redeem your options now! Not productively employed, and should use our resources to train professional engineers. They're worried about the impact on their family."

Professor Wilbur Davenport, of the Electrical Engineering Department, said that he had noted a trend of "going into things other than EE or engineering." "I think EE is second in the Institute in medi- cal school applications," Daven- port said. "This department has always had a history of graduates going into other technical fields. Now they're also going into non- technical fields."

MIT stung

Davenport said that he doubted that the trends at MIT are the same as those across the country. "MIT is a special place," he said. He pointed out that students at many engineering schools must "enter" engineering during the freshman year, and that it is difficult to get into - or out of - engineering as an undergradu ate. "I have a feeling that this impacts very heavily on students here," he said. "Many of them don't even realize how different the situation is here from the rest of the country. Many EE majors say: "considered physics, math, and EE at the same time before deciding on EE." Davenport said.

Engineering at MIT is almost certainly at the top tier of schools across the nation. As Bruce said, "No one's come up to me and said, 'Our enrollment is holding up better than yours.' We're damn close to the top."

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