MIT, Chamber of Commerce claim

(Continued from page 11)

David Clem, President of the Riverside-Cambridgeport Com-
munity Corporation, a citizen’s group (the one that opposed
MIT last month to the Government on a Riverside rezoning question), believes
the Council voted the money knowing the Management would
not advance it.

Clem disagreed with the Alli-
ance by urging that the Council
not pass the order because it
were not acting altruistically.
He advised the Alliance to present a
realistic plan to MIT itself and
was surprised that the Council
passed the motion (unanimous-
ly) to lend money. Clem says that
neighborhood planning, Clem
does not believe it proper to pay
citizens to participate.

The Cambridge Council re-
ported on July 20 that the
Cambridge Chamber of Com-
mance had also disapproved of
the move. The Chamber viewed
the Council’s vote as “arbitrary and capricious” and detrimental
to the continuing economic de-
evelopment efforts of both the
public and private sector.” It
asked the council to rescind the
order.

The Chamber continued,
“Broad and flexible participa-
tion from the spectrum of inter-
ested groups is indeed valuable
when planning use and develop-
ant of publicly held properties.

However, the requirements of citizen participation on privately
held properties is greatly inap-
propriate since a proliferation of safeguards have been built
into the private development system through zoning ordinances, local
and state building codes, and
many other regulations promul-
gulated by various local, state, and
federal regulatory agencies.”

In fact, such zoning ordi-
ances are the only binding method
of dictating land use, MIT could
accept the advice of the citizen’s
groups but would not be com-
pelled to follow it unless the
area was rezoned. As Vickery
indicated, citizen input is being
considered in the rezoning of
Cambridge, and MIT will be
forced to follow the neighbor-
hood plan if the Planning De-
partment includes it in the
new code.

The Chamber further said,
according to the Chronicle, that
such Council orders “only fur-
ther the reluctance of business,
industries, and other job pro-
ducers to look to Cambridge as
a viable place for development and growth.” Many firms apparently
 cite the general attitude of ob-
structionism in the city as a
reason for looking elsewhere for
development sites.

“Cambridge can no longer
afford to paint a self-portrait of arbitrary obstructionism and

MIT, Chamber of Commerce

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