Coop rebate due Tuesday

By Mike McNamer

The Coop Cooperative Society - the Coop - has raised the highest rebate percentage in eight years when rebate checks are distributed next week.

The rebate has been set at 3.86%, according to the Coop's total purchases for the 1973-74 year. Coop General Manager Howard Davis said. The rebate percentage is the same for credit and non-credit members, he added. (See chart at right for comparison with past years.)

Rebate checks will start Tuesday, Oct. 8, according to Davis, at each of the Coop's four locations. MIT Coop members will be able to pick up their checks at the credit counter in the Tech Coop, first floor of the Student Center.

Davis credited a dedicated group of people in the stores "for helping the Coop increase its sales over the last year and making the high rebate possible. He cited reduced shoplifting as one example of service from employees, and said that the loss to shoplifting was the lowest in recent years.

Recent economic problems have not hit the Coop as hard as they have other businesses, Davis said. Substitutions for merchandise that has been unavailable during petroleum and paper shortages have been accepted by customers, he said, and sales have remained high.

Davis said that the Coop would continue to expand its lines of merchandise, with "quality products at lower prices."

MIT Coop members might experience some difficulty in getting their rebate checks, Davis said, because the checks might be sent to the Harvard Store. In that case, there will be a one-day delay while the misguided checks are recovered and brought to the Tech Coop.

Sorensen: power not too great

By Michael Garry

Despite the fact brought out in the Watergate Scandals that this country "came close to an alteration of its government by stealth," most steps should be taken to reduce presidential power, declared a noted expert on the presidency in a series of lectures in Kresge Auditorium this week.

The lectures, given by Theodore C. Sorensen, former special assistant to President John Kennedy, were part of a seminar on "The Presidency After Watergate" held Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings.

Sorensen characterized the Watergate scandals as the nation's "worst constitutional crisis since the Civil War." In surving Watergate, he stressed, "there is reason for pride, not euphoria. It pointed out our strengths and exposed our vulnerabilities."

Sorensen was particularly concerned in his lectures about how the country should deal with its vulnerabilities, now that they have been so dramatically demonstrated.

It would be a mistake, he argued, to underreact to Watergate by allowing its memory to fade with Nixon's departure and not making any changes in the government. However, he added, to overreact by attempting to sharply curtail the powers of the presidential office "is in order to stop another Nixon," would be "equally erroneous."

The existing presidential powers, Sorensen contends, are sufficiently limited so that any further limitations might have the effect of crippling presidential capabilities.

"The president really gives very few commands and makes very few unilateral decisions," he said. "He must often rely on persuasion and negotiations and is limited by many pressures and precedents."

Sorensen's plan, he said, is to "turn to page 7."