City group condemns
Kendall renewal plan

By Michael Garry
A redevelopment plan for Kendall Square, recently adopted by the Cambridge City Council with the support of MIT, has been harshly criticized by a Cambridge community group as an attempt to turn Cambridge into "a towering university city.

According to a circle authorite by the Kendall Square Committee of the Cambridge Tenants Organizing Committee, MIT helped bring about the City Council's approval of the "Neighborhood Plan" by "spending time and money wooing our city councillors and other influential people." The intent of the Neighborhood Plan, as described by MIT administrators, is to turn the Kendall Square area into "a diversified living environment" offering a broad range of redevelopment possibilities, including the construction of light industrial plants, retail stores and residential housing. The emphasis of the plan, however, has been on housing as opposed to light industry and technical office space, both of which had been underscored by some of the other redevelopment proposals.

The notice questioned whether the Neighborhood Plan would benefit the many middle and lower income citizens of Cambridge, and asked that the plan not provide needed low-rental family housing but rather luxury, highrise housing beyond the financial means of these citizens. In addition, the notice declares that the plan would not furnish the light industry needed to create employment possibilities for blue collar workers, Kendall Square congestion, or resolve the problem of the "ever-increasing repressive property tax." The vote approving the plan, the circular said, is not legally binding and may be changed by the City Council in the next year. In order to accomplish this the Cambridge Tenants Organizing Committee intends to combat the "powerful vested interests" supporting the plan by mobilizing the "strong and well organized community opposition groups." The vested interest groups cited by the circular include universities such as MIT and Harvard, the Chamber of Commerce, and certain real estate developers.

The circular pointed out that a "conflict of interest" question involving a vested interest arose when Mayor Sullivan refused to disclose his financial interest. In addition the voting on the redevelopment proposals in spite of his connection with the Cambridge Tenants Organizing Company, which presently has a representative in Kendall Square and will be allowed to relocate upon the completion of Kendall Square, would not benefit the many middle and lower income citizens of Cambridge, and asked that the plan not provide needed low-rental family housing but rather luxury, highrise housing beyond the financial means of these citizens. In addition, the notice declares that the plan would not furnish the light industry needed to create employment possibilities for blue collar workers, Kendall Square congestion, or resolve the problem of the "ever-increasing repressive property tax." The vote approving the plan, the circular said, is not legally binding and may be changed by the City Council in the next year. In order to accomplish this the Cambridge Tenants Organizing Committee intends to combat the "powerful vested interests" supporting the plan by mobilizing the "strong and well organized community opposition groups." The vested interest groups cited by the circular include universities such as MIT and Harvard, the Chamber of Commerce, and certain real estate developers.

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