Letters to The Tech

Photocopying - An Author's View

To the Editor:

I am writing this note in regard to an article in the September 25th issue pointing out that many staff members at the Institute involved with photocopying oppose a new copyright law which would merit unlimited photocopying. As an author of a monograph (Priceman and Wear of Materials, published by John Wiley and Sons in 1965), as well as numerous textbooks, I feel strongly that systematic photocopying of books and journals is a taxable luxury. The paper on which I wrote my book took about eleven years and 2000 hours to write, and has brought me royalties of about $7000, or $3.50 per hour, if sales dropped by a third. ($3.50 just is not underpaid). What worries me is that if sales dropped by one third, because of improper photocopying, the publisher might decide he could not afford to publish books of this type at all. That has involved with books (authors, publishers, readers and librarians) would be

It seems to me that if modern technology can perfect photocopying, it can perfect methods to make sure that authors and publishers derive equitable payment from the photocopying of their copyrighted materia

Ernest Rabunovich

Dean of Mechancial Engineering

Guns and Crime

To the Editor:

The column space The Tech wastes in printing the "Police Blotter" every week hints of reactionary journalism. An unfortunate fact of cities is that you can't leave things lying around. The "Police Blotter" only tends to heighten suspicion of our neighbors who don't look like MIT types, a view that is only tended to by the use of the term "Police Blotter." The journalism of unreliability which, it is abundantly obvious, often works against the "Blotter"'s ability to capture "rip-offs" like gun smuggling and drug activity.

My monograph is 244 pages long and only costs $17.50. It can readily be photocopied for less than the retail price (and on a limited basis) for less than 30¢ per page. Technology can perfect photography, and expression of views other than those of the Editorial Board.

John J. Hanzel '76, Chairperson

Michael D. McNamara '76, Editor-in-Chief

Julia A. Maltzke '77, Managing Editor

John M. Valley '77, Business Manager

Continuum News Service Since 1861

Voice of the Students

PAGE 2 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1975 THE TECH

Editorial

Taxing our food

The poor budgetary condition of the Commonwealth of Massa-

chusetts has led the state Corporations and Taxation Department to decide that all students fortunate enough to receive revenue it can get. The contract meal plan, that tax represents a cost of $1.35 added to the student, is a luxury to the extent of $1000 he may be paying each year for his commons contract.

The justification for the meals tax is that it is a luxury tax, a means of raising revenue for the state without imposing upon the necessaries of life, a way of preventing a high general sales tax rate. When the tax was first imposed in 1941, it was reasoned that it would apply mainly to restaurants and "luxury" food service outlets. For that reason, and exemption for meals costing $1 or less was included in the taxation legislation. Now, all meals, student working 60 hours a week on his studies, perhaps holding a part-time job at the same time, is it a luxury not to have to cook for himself?

But for many students at MIT, Commons is an important, useful, advantage of the only regular source of meals on campus? For the $1 exemption, meals on contract plans were thought to cost less than $1, and therefore were eligible for exemption.

The budgetary problems of the state should not fall upon the students here. Taxation on students' meals should be stopped.

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Police Blotter - reactionary?

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