Clem discusses DNA work

Cambridge City Councillor David Clem has been involved with a problem of controlling recombinant DNA research since the council voted its moratorium last May. He is now sponsoring an ordinance that would allow the research under guidelines recommended by the Cambridge Laboratory Experiments Review Board. The Tech spoke to Clem last Friday. Excerpts of the interview follow; more will be published in the next issue.

The Tech: The National Institutes of Health [NIH] made up their review procedures before you began your hearings. Why did you believe at that time that the NIH process was inadequate?

Clem: At the time, I was not aware that the NIH had gone through such an extraordinary process in developing guidelines. I was also not aware of [what was a] many ways an unprecedented role by the scientists themselves in calling for a voluntary moratorium in order to develop NIH guidelines — I simply had no knowledge of that. However, it became clear after reviewed several scores of articles, and phone calls from a variety of members within the scientific community that the issue was not completely resolved scientifically, and that they did not want to regulate it. So I felt it important at the time that we commit some type of independent view of that guideline process, and that that independent view be that of a lay citizen as opposed to the scientists themselves.

ORIENTATION ‘77

The MIT Community is invited to an orientation party starting at 8:30 pm Saturday, February 5, in the Walker Memorial. The event, sponsored by the Graduate Student Council, is the highlight of the Spring ‘77 graduate student orientation activities. Admission is free, live entertainment will be provided by "Eastern Reunion" and refreshments will be available at nominal cost. Please call e-2185 or for further information.

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10 WORLD DYNAMICS: WHO SHALL POSSESS THE LAND? Maria Augusta Neal, S.N.D., Ph.D.

Marie Augusta Neal is Professor of Sociology at Emmanuel College and Visiting Professor of the Graduate School of Social Problems at Harvard University. Her topic deals with the global inequalities in the distribution of resources.

13 MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

Stanley Joel Reiser, M.D., Ph.D.

Reiser is Director of the Program in the History of Medicine at the Harvard Medical School and Co-Director of the Harvard Interfaculty Program in Medical Ethics. He is author of the forthcoming Medical and the Reign of Technology.

17 COMPUTATION AND THE RE-CONSTRUCTION OF REALITY

Joseph Weizenbaum, Ph.D.

Weizenbaum, Professor of Computer Science at M.I.T., is the author of ELIZA, a computer program for natural language communication between human and machine. Recently, he has turned his attention to the relationship of computation to culture and society, and is the author of Computer Power and Human Reason.

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