Opinion

Leigh J. Passman

Educations "own department"

Formation of a new Department of Education won Congressional approval last week, giving the nation a new domestic legislative victory. Although considered by the President as a "significance milestone in my effort to make the Federal Government more efficient," the new department is also seen as an important centralization of educational services and funding, and as a new cabinet-level secretary as an exponent spokesman for educational interests.

The reorganization brings together 153 education-related programs. While most were part of the Office of Education in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare programs, will also be transferred from the Rehabilitation Services Administration, the Office for Civil Rights, the National Science Foundation, and Justice, Labor, and Housing, and Public Health Service Urban Development Programs. The new department will have 7,000 employees and a budget of $1.4 billion.

Thus, the creation of the Carter Administration has lasted over two years. When the Senate passed legislation last year to establish a Department of Education last week, the Senate passed the House floor. The Senate passed a similar version this spring and during the summer, the House spent several days debating the bill. Opponents took on controversial amendments permitting private schools, banning housing for integration, and restoring to the use of sexual quotas in college admissions. Defenders countered with popular amendments, the measure barely passed the House in July.

The Senate-House Conference Committee dropped the amendments paving the way for approval. Much of the legislative success is attributable to Vice President Mondale and his staff. Education has always been an important policy mainstay for the former Minnesota Senator and Mondale worked vigorously and quickly, for its passage.

Glorious outstretched arms were somewhat divided over the legislation. Opponents of the measure argued that establishing a single-interest department would strip schools of their autonomy, and that the new department would be stymied by the Coast's fears of inflation on social legislation. However, the National Educational Association has signed a cooperation agreement with the new member teachers and educators, provided strong backing and it has already rewarded President Carter for keeping his 1976 campaign promise to create a separate department. It is also the latest in a long history of support for his re-election in 1980. Other groups, particularly the teachers, were disappointed. But they opposed the legislation, fearing they would lose influence to the N.E.A.; it would now seem they have, anyway.

"Both the New York Times" and "The Chronicle of Higher Education" noted speculation that, for instance, former governor of New Mexico, would be Carter's nominee for the Secretary position. There had been some speculation that Barbara Newell, president of Wellesley College might be offered the position.person, in the Carter cabinet shake-up, Ms. Newell, who is now on leave from Wellesley, has to have assume a position in the, H.E.W., and she may yet be offered a position in the new department.

The Department of Education is to become operational within six months. Although many of its early charges will be on hand, the structure of its first full staff is not yet finalized. In any event, the new department will be a major force in the federal legislative process. The department will also be a major instrument in the federal legislative process. The department will also be a major instrument in the federal legislative process.

Ensemble could also use new space

To the Editor:

David Shaw's article on the possibilities of a "new" arts department at MIT's theatre work (The Tech, 25 September) is timely, informative, and perhaps unknowingly so persuasive. He uses the term "Drama" program and accordingly, as if it meant the whole of MIT's drama offerings; whereas fact is denoted only one section of that offering, namely Dramashop and its affiliated courses in the Humanities Department. Although the inaccessibility of Dramashop makes a "new" arts department for Dramashop, it would only help David Shaw's arguments more space to remember that other MIT drama groups may be just as much in need of additional space as access to the extent of their student involvement, and just as desirous of improved facilities for their plays. Even the Shakespeare Ensemble, which has a dedicated student group, which finds the Sala del Puerto too small for their needs, for seating, for their plays, for their plays. However, the Sala del Puerto is too small for their plays.

David Shaw and Steven Solomon, in the same issue of The Tech, seem to believe in an order of artistic excellence and academic value. In my experience, the creative arts are not necessarily independent of each other. There is nothing wrong with using MIT for its academic value. It is a question of whether or not the more "artistic" groups can benefit from the (then) current situation. It is a question of whether or not the more "artistic" groups can benefit from the creativity of other groups, and so forth.

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Shakespeare Ensemble Editor's Note from Steven Solnick: My comments regarding the connection between the Creative Arts program and Academic Affairs at MIT summarized in "The importance of theater work not done for credit." I intended simply to emphasize that there are other mechanisms for creative arts at MIT could not, and should not, be regarded on the same plane as many less demanding and more superficially "artistic" activities. Every student, even those who receive credit for their theater work, is only partly a member of this community. The Editor's note from David Shaw: The purpose of the column was not to make a conclusion concerning academic (the Humanities Department) or creative arts (Dramashop program). Since the Shakespeare Ensemble does not offer any courses in the Humanities Department, I did not choose to make an argument about the ensemble, the department would remain unaffected by any decision made by the faculty or the Humanities Department. I did not choose to make an argument about the ensemble, the department would remain unaffected by any decision made by the faculty or the Humanities Department.