U.S. finds faults in nuclear power

By Stuart Cantor

The need for nuclear power is much exaggerated: only five percent of our nation's oil could be replaced by nuclear power plants, according to Professor of Physics Henry W. Kendall speaking for the Union for Concerned Scientists (U.C.S.).

The U.C.S. is working to increase nuclear regulation and shut down potentially dangerous nuclear power plants, according to Kendall. The U.C.S. does not necessarily stand against nuclear power, but against its use where the current lack of safety precautions, he added.

Kendall asserted that the U.C.S. is the leading group in the country, that has uncovered technological weaknesses with nuclear power, Congressman Morris Udall (D-Arizona) has praised the organization for changing the Rasmussen report. The report had previously rejected the safety defects that should have been corrected.

The U.C.S. is very much in favor of halting construction on future nuclear power plants, said Kendall. He explained that they stand against the construction of the Seabrook plant in New Hampshire, arguing that the plant is not only poorly sited, but unnecessary for the energy standpoint.

On September 17, the U.C.S. issued a press release saying that they plan to launch a concerted legal action to force the immediate shutdown of two nuclear power plants near New York City and the decommissioning of a third. The scientists claim that the power plants pose a "clear and present danger to the 19 million people in the 60-mile radius of the plants."

The Union for Concerned Scientists originated in 1969 as a small group of 90 scientists first at the Sargent Institute of Technology. It is now concerned with the use of Anti-Ballistic Missiles. It has expanded to a large, non-profit public interest group with a total membership of approximately 8,000. Members are from all parts of the country, and represent a wide range of occupations.

Although most the group is composed of "supporting members" (u.s. to the Sierra Club), quite a few are involved in the actual business and activity of the group. There is a paid staff of 25 graduate students, employing lawyers, economists, technicians, researchers, and secretaries.

The headquarters of the union is located in Cambridge, with a branch office in Washington D.C. The U.C.S. is overseen by the first members on the Board of Directors, with three residing in the Cambridge area (including Kendall, one at Cornell University, and one in Washington.

Students important to Gray

(Continued from page 1)

has given the administration a clear mandate not to change the class size from what it is now. He noted that plans to set the incoming class size at 1100 after completion of Next House would still keep the student body below the "upper bound" of 4500.

Regarding academic space, Gray said, "There will continue to be expansion in the scale of the academic facilities" because core facilities are stretched very thin and research needs are growing. He cited the need for new lecture halls and laboratory spaces as well as plans for extensive construction east of Ann Street. He also noted that there were no plans to expand the Whitaker Health-Science Program into a full Medical School for MIT.

Asked what changes he expected to see during his administration, Gray said, "The place evolves in accordance with the interests, wishes, and desires of the people here." He did, however, reiterate two remarks he made during his tenure as director of Engineering last winter. They are that MIT should "remain an institution primarily concerned with the development of a liberal education," and that science and engineering should be the priority of the Institute.

On the role of students in policy making, Gray said, "Students have and ought to have an important voice in policy" — but he emphasized the difference between "having a voice and making the decision." He says he thinks the system of having students on faculty committees has generally worked well; however, he did say he feels there is a weakness in the nominations process by which students get on committees and observed that they are "not necessarily representative" of the student body as a whole.

Gray lamented that "there is no longer a reliable mechanism for administrators to communicate with the student body." He said that there is "less acceptance of the mechanisms of student government" by the student body than there was in the 60's. He added he would like to "look for new methods of communication between students and the administration."