Candidate Anderson visits MIT

By Alan Lichterman

Last Thursday, the MIT community was thrilled to see Congressman John Anderson come to MIT to speak. The speech, held in the Sala de Puerto Rico in the Student Center, was well received by the overflow crowd of 800 persons in the sala and 400 more who listened to the speech through an audio feed in Lobdell Dining Room. At least 100 more persons were turned away at the door to the lack of room inside.

Anderson started this speech by stating that his reason for declaring his candidacy eight months ago was that he "wasn't satisfied that as a nation we were addressing our problems as courageously as we could," and he couldn't find another candidate "that was offering anything other than the same old political nostrums, the same old political rhetoric, the same old political prescriptions that American voters have heard time and time before."

Saying that he was attempting to build a new coalition of disenchanted Democrats,_small Independent Republicans that would vote for him, Anderson came here to appeal to students for support for him in the forms of both manpower and votes.

Anderson spoke for about 50 minutes about such issues as women's rights, inflation, unemployment, defense, spending, relations with the Soviet Union and SALT II, and then answered questions from the audience. The audience was polite if not overly enthusiastic, and they seemed impressed with the eloquence of this soft spoken man from Illinois. In fact, this was my general impression of John Anderson after conducting a 15 minute interview with him before his speech.

This interview gave me a chance to interrogate Congressman Anderson on some of his more controversial stands on issues as well as topics that are of special interests to the MIT Community.

A partial transcript of the interview is as follows:

Q: You have introduced legislation in Congress that would require the President to submit a balanced budget, but you are opposed to a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. Can you reconcile these two positions?

A: Well actually I did not specifically in that bill prescribe a balanced budget. What I did...I tried to suggest that future increases in federal spending ought to be tied to the growth of the economy. We should not have these disproportionate increases (Please turn to page 7).

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