In case of emergency . . .

By Stuart Gillon

McConnell Hall, Hayden Memorial Library, and Walker Memorial all have one similarity: they each contain a fallout shelter. It is not known what each shelter is used for, and there were insufficient time for these people to one-tenth their allotted space for protection from the outside.

In the event of an emergency, Walker and Hayden would be the safest ports; these two shelters provide a protection factor of forty or more. This indicates that the areas within these shelters would receive one-fortieth or less of the radiation exposure sustained by the outside.

McConnell, while holding 586 people, exposed 2010 of these people to one-tenth of the outside radiation. These two shelters were considered to be the safest of six surveyed; a survey conducted by Walker and Walker were not completed until December of 1963.

The Cambridge area has been defined as a high risk area in the Community Shelter Plan, a plan currently available should there be a release of a destructive agent. McCormick, Eastgate, MacGregor, the Student Center, and the Kendall Subway Entrance also contain large areas for fallout protection. Small areas for shelter are provided in Buildings 1, 3, 6, 8, 13, 16, 26, and other MIT structures.

McConnell does not seem well-known. An officer of the Cambridge Police recently told the Tech that MIT does not have any fallout shelters or areas currently designated as such. Although the officer has been at MIT for three years, he has never seen a shelter or any plans officially labeled as a shelter.

Forbes stated that many buildings, upon remodeling, or renovation have had the familiar yellow and black signs removed and not replaced. The Civil Defense Agency has signs available, both in the original metal form and in a new, pressure-sensitive style.

Fallout shelters are no longer stocked with food and water. Nearly all of the food, crackers, and carbohydrate supplegents were stocked so that people would live on what they have. Although much of it is still usable, the signs indicate that it would be safer to eliminate food stocks than risk having some bad food consumed in a non-emergency situation.

Walker Hall was designed to give it an indefinite shell life, which was originally stocked. Many drums of irradiated water still remain in shelter, yet whether MIT shelters still have water has not been determined. Most buildings have enough "trap water" contained in the plumbing system to last people for up to two weeks. Of the shelters if water were rationed at the rate of three to four quarts per person per day, Forbes believes the water will not be a problem for stocking shelters "may be being handled during this crisis or administration." However, it is probable that only those shelters close to Priority One targets would be restocked.

Weaver Air Force Base is a nearby Priority One target.

Gene Norman, General Manager of WMBR, MIT's radio station, told us that WMBR is a member of the National Broadcasting System, a nation-wide network established to distribute information to as many people as possible with as little confusion as possible.

"If there were a national emergency," Norman said, "we'd activate the emergency network. Ten bells would ring. We'd sign off and play any messages that come in."

WMBR would read the following message over its broadcast facilities:

"We interrupt this program," followed by a two-tone signal for 20-25 seconds. This is an emergency action notification. This station has interrupted its regular program at the request of the White House to participate in the Emergency Broadcast System. During this emergency most stations will remain off the air.

To hear news and official information to the public in a crisis, you should tune to WMBR. We will be leaving the air. You should now tune to another station."

The Emergency Broadcating System has been activated to keep you informed, we repeat . . .

Fuel financing finds frats frozen

By Tim Keane

Many MIT fraternities have received an unexpected financial windfall: increases in fuel oil prices triggered by the Reagan Administration's decontrol of domestic oil prices.

Some fraternities have thirty-three independent living groups using oil for heating their buildings, and Steve Imerman, Business Advisor to Fraseries and Independent Living Groups, Twenty-two of these thirty-three currently belong to a cooperative which buys its oil from the Gibbs Oil Company.

"From the cooperative the has paid have escalated from 96 cents per gallon in late November to 1.17 dollars per gallon this week — an increase of over 20 percent so far this winter."

Skyskiving fuel oil prices have forced most independent living groups to upgrade their buildings to reduce heat loss. At Tau Epsilon Phi, a switch to a more efficient oil burner, coupled with plastic-covered windows that reduce heat loss, has helped TEP's fuel costs to remain nearly constant over the past two years.

Delta Kappa Epsilon is one of the MIT independent living groups presently using natural gas to provide heat. Although gas is cheaper, DKE is considering renovation to reduce energy costs even more. Storm windows, efficient water heaters, insulated doors, and new radiators are scheduled for installation in the near future.

According to Imerman, some improvements being made at other houses include mortair covers, new windows, upgrading and replacing old boilers and burners, improved zone control, encouraging heat flow through the house, and time-control thermostats. These measures are expected to decrease MIT independent living group oil consumption below the 117,000 gallons of fuel oil burned between July 1978 and June 1979, the most recent time period for which comprehensive figures are available.