Reagan research cuts to hurt MIT

By Sam Cable

The possibility that many MIT laboratories and research projects will be hurt badly by President Reagan's proposed twelve percent cut in research funding is "very real," according to Associate Provost Ken Smith '58.

Robert A. Alberty, Dean of the School of Science, confirmed this same opinion, saying that the situation "is up a confounded one."

It is highly unlikely that Congress will pass a full twelve percent cut, according to Smith, but a cut of four or five percent is highly possible, he added. The effects of the cut, according to Smith, "are not going to be too serious" during the fiscal year 1983. He indicated that parts of the Energy Lab and Frances Bitter National Magnet Laboratory may be hurt, but this is not certain. The effects during the 1982 fiscal year are "totally uncertain," he said.

Alberty said that difficulties already exist because of requests from the Reagan Administration that agencies decrease expenditures. He indicated that this may mean less funds in the fall and more in the spring making it "difficult to adjust." Although it is still too early to gauge accurately the effects of this cut, "many developments will take place over the next several months" and "it will affect MIT," he said.

"It is terribly difficult to say anything meaningful, and I have a hunch that it will stay that way for many months," Smith said. "The hardest part is living with that uncertainty," he added.

Decision may affect MIT

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must show both that there is a reason for him not to be there and that there is no reason to be there.

Princeton and MIT meet these tests by pointing to the need for an orderly educational environment and to the presence of public theatres crossing the campus.

The New Jersey Supreme Court did not accept that argument, and this fall the Supreme Court will make its decision.

Some possibility exists that a Massachusetts court may have to judge MIT's policy in a similar way: according to Anti-War Organizing League (AWOL) spokesman Danny Gindes, "We're going to be there. We're going to be on their campus."

But, he added, "I don't think we're going to be arrested."

AWOL and MIT disagree on two major points: the adequacy of public thoroughfare as an opportunity for communication, and the degree to which a protest would interfere with MIT's educational objective. Both of these differences of opinion stem from the contrast between AWOL's desire to be considered on their own merits as part of a case-by-case evaluation system, and MIT's desire to treat all groups and individuals consistently.

While the sidewalk may be adequate for leafleting, it is too small for a public rally. Furthermore, while one individual or group might not be in the way of normal business, all the Boston area special interest groups put together could substantially interfere.

While a definitive Supreme Court interpretation of the complex constitutional questions connected with on-campus activities, such as that which may come out of the School case, would please the lawyers, it might not affect the outcome of Friday's protest. According to Gindes, the technicalities of the law don't matter to "the people who are taking this into their own hands," and if they interfere with the Institute's normal business of "training baby-killers," all the better.

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