Voting on referenda

Massachusetts voters will decide five important questions next Tuesday. The difficult issues implicit in the quinquennial referenda on the November 2 ballot deserve thoughtful consideration.

The nuclear freeze issue, question five on the ballot, is one of the paramount issues of our day. The citizens of the Commonwealth should take this opportunity to send a message not just to Washington but to all the world's citizens that the nuclear arms race is unacceptable. The proposal on the ballot calls for a 10-year moratorium on the deployment of antiballistic missiles in the Commonwealth. Massachusetts is a strong nation in peace-time, but her influence can be even more powerful in war. By supporting the moratorium, the people of Massachusetts would be opposing a dangerous, unnecessary waste disposal sites, they should vote no on question three, which would permit public institutions to invest in large stockpiles of nuclear weapons. A yes vote on question five is a small but important step toward regaining world sanity.

Despite Governor Edward J. King's repeated vetoes of the moratorium bill, the legislation has made a strong showing in recent polls. The people of Massachusetts should be encouraged by the strength of the moratorium movement.

Allowing Massachusetts to provide aid to private schools would require either diverting resources from the Commonwealth's public schools or finding a new revenue source. When the Commonwealth's public schools are in desperate need of greater aid, an argument for aid to a relatively small number of private schools seems less relevant. The Commonwealth has no obligation to aid private schools and should consider the welfare of the public schools first.

Vote no on question two: allowing the reinstallation of nuclear waste disposal sites, they should vote no on question three, which would permit public institutions to invest in large stockpiles of nuclear weapons. A yes vote on question five is a small but important step toward regaining world sanity.

The student positions on faculty and presidential committees are among the few officially sanctioned means for bringing student opinion has direct impact on committee decisions, as is the case with the Undergraduate Association. The student position on the Nominations Committee, but also with the Committee on Educational Policy's recommendations for freshmen.

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