Draft enforcement not Institute's job

The United States Congress decided last summer to withdraw federal financial aid from college students failing to register for the military draft. The Department of Education's provisions for implementing the Solomon Amendment places colleges in the position of having to enforce federal law.

A suit filed by the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group seeking to repeal the legislation on several constitutionality grounds has been rejected by the Federal District Court in Minneapolis. If the suit is unsuccessful, or if the court does not grant an injunction, the new regulations requiring college financial aid offices to refuse aid to nonregistrants' registration status will take effect July 1. All college students identified as nonregistrants would then be denied federal funds.

The Student Financial Aid Office is not a branch of the US Marshall's Office. It is no more the province of the Student Financial Aid Office to provide the federal government the names of nonregistrants than it is that of the MIT Medical Department to provide the Cambridge Police Department the names of students treated for drug abuse. MIT should not aid the federal government by participating in its registration status and should not require a registration statement before approving or disbursing financial aid funds.

Several college and university presidents have recently decided to replace any federal financial aid denied students not registering for the military draft. It is MIT's role neither to encourage nor to discourage compliance with the federal draft registration regulations. The Institute should maintain its commitment to provide financial aid to the demonstrated need of all its students, and leave the registration status decision to the student.

Students cheated by EECS's attitude

Last year, the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) announced it would cease to offer Introduction to Computation (6030), citing lack of staff and money. This decision may have been expedient in the short run, but it disregarded the best interests of MIT students, who lost an excellent class contributing to computer literacy among those not majoring in the department. Now, by restricting enrollment in Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs (6030), EECS has again acted for its own convenience as it did not during the current situation.

The department was well aware of the possibility of overenrollment this term; the number of students registering for 6030 in the spring term is typically quite high. Recent EECS policy has been specifically to encourage freshmen to register for the course in the fall term. Associate Department Head Peter Elias has underlined a policy to "deal with as many students as we have."

Overcrowding in 6030 reached a crisis stage this term, and college authorities are now forced to eliminate 141 freshmen randomly, in violation of Elias's Administrative Director's other subjects, faced with similar overcrowding problems, have increased facilities or established explicit criteria prior to the registration dates. The EECS department's failure to provide for such a possibility is deplorable.

The department was recently disturbed by rumors it was losing its top ranking in the academic world. To best possible impression of the department's desire for convenience must not supplant its responsibility to maintain its top ranking in the academic world. The current situation is deplorable.

It is budgetmaking time in Washington, time for the annual game that is even bigger than the Super Bowl. Every year, just after the NFL championship, the President submits his budget to Congress. Two years ago, President Reagan promised the budget would be balanced in 1984. He vouched for it "without fraud, and abuse." Last year, his administration forecast a $90 billion deficit. Now, he admits it will be tough to hold the red ink under $200 billion in Fiscal 1984. That is a lot of money — $300,000 per minute in deficit spending. The deficit will eat up 75 percent of the new savings available for capital investment in this country. So much for economic recovery. But our leaders in Washington say there is little that can be done about it. "We've cut to the bone," they say. Well, they must not have received a copy of a promotional letter that Rosenboom Books of New York recently sent to millions of educators trying to sell a new book. What Business Can Get From the Generous Government

This book tells all about how American businesses can get subsidies, contracts, loans, and grants from our government. The promotional letter points out that "with some $20 billion worth of financial opportunities for US businesses. Uncle Sam makes a mighty attractive customer, backstopped by more than $1 trillion in deficit spending. The Department of Defense squandered billions on cost overruns and useless weapons systems. Billions more in construction monies go for underfunded pork barrel projects. With deficits expected to total $1 trillion over the next four years, it is time for our elected officials to start looking at excesses in government spending.

But the rest of us may figure out our own money is going for the same waste. "Avoiding abuse" Last year, his administration forecast a $90 billion deficit. Now, he admits it will be tough to hold the red ink under $200 billion in Fiscal 1984. That is a lot of money — $300,000 per minute in deficit spending. The deficit will eat up 75 percent of the new savings available for capital investment in this country. So much for economic recovery. But our leaders in Washington say there is little that can be done about it. "We've cut to the bone," they say. Well, they must not have received a copy of a promotional letter that Rosenboom Books of New York recently sent to millions of educators trying to sell a new book. What Business Can Get From the Generous Government

At the beginning of term, Professor Jerome Y. Wiesner's tour guide, were somehow left out of this book — we'll sell you money book, no questions asked." And this book is not bogus — just ask any company that does business with the government. The Washington Post called it "a thorough, well-researched guide to the myriad sources of assistance provided to all business by the US government."

But wait a minute. That is our money the government is spending. It is adding to the deficit. And even though Ronald Reagan promised to cut waste, fraud, and abuse, he has not touched business subsidies. As the promotional letter says, "if you think that Reaganomics have cut deeply into federal finances, help for business, this revealing new book will set you straight in short order."

The politicians in Washington know this kind of stuff is going on. But most of them just do not care. And government excesses do not end with business, either. Spending for medical and pension plans for the middle class is out of control. Farm subsidies to big agribusiness are also growing rapidly. The Department of Defense squandered billions on cost overruns and useless weapons systems. Billions more in construction monies go for underfunded pork barrel projects. With deficits expected to total $1 trillion over the next four years, it is time for our elected officials to start looking at excesses in government spending.

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