By Ron Norman

Howard Zinn, professor of Political Science at Boston University, and John Flynn, professor of law at Northeastern University, discussed arguments in favor of the Nuclear Free Cambridge Referendum Wednesday night at MIT.

The referendum will be voted on Nov. 8, and if approved, would prohibit any research or development of nuclear weapons within Cambridge, starting in October 1983. Fines and jail sentences may be imposed on violators.

The proposal states "no person, corporation, university, laboratory, institution, or any other entity shall, within the city of Cambridge, engage in work of research, development, testing, evaluation, production, maintenance, storage, or transportation of nuclear weapons or the components of nuclear weapons."

"It's hard to do justice to arguments against Nuclear Free Cambridge," Zinn said.

The intent of the referendum "is to have the people of Cambridge decide if nuclear weapons will be built," Zinn said.

"Foreign policy has always been outside democracy in the U.S.," Zinn noted. He said the referendum is an important step in making foreign policy a democratic decision.

Flynn refuted arguments against the referendum, and implied that the referendum would be constitutional if approved.

"There is no interstate commerce in nuclear weapons," Flynn said in response to opposing arguments based on the Interstate Commerce Act.

The principle of the first amendment and its exceptions "fall outside the intent of this ordinance," Flynn said. "[The fact that] some people think democracy is unconstitutional ... is the bottom line," he noted.

Earlier this year, Ernest May, professor of history at Harvard University and chairman of Citizens Against Nuclear War, a group opposed to the referendum, said the proposal targeted about 70 firms in Cambridge.

Eric Segal, spokesman for Mobilization for Survival -- the organization sponsoring the referendum -- said last week, "There is only one facility that will be affected by this act," referring to the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, the facility devoted by the Institute in the early 1970s.

Nuclear free Cambridge is discussed at MIT forum

By Burt S. Kaliski

Boston mayoral candidates Flynn and Melvin H. King held their first televised debate Wednesday night, with panels from The Boston Globe, The Boston Phoenix, and WNEV-TV.

The panelists gave each candidate several chances to dispute the record of his opponent but only King accepted the opportunity. Flynn instead said he preferred to run on his own qualifications.

"Anyone who moves from one position to another position ... does not have the leadership to with consistency play a role in effectively leading the city," King said.

Flynn said the commission's budget, "was top-heavy administratively" and the $350,000 in budget cuts which King claimed would abolish the commission were intended to "streamline" its function.

"I prefer to deal with the qualifications that I present to the people of the city," Flynn said.

He is a six-year member of the City Council, and had served for eight years as a state legislator. (Please turn to page 8)