Gray talks at King memorial

(Continued from page 1) evolution, black people were not
without dignity. He told of how he
had grown up in an all-black community in Virginia, seeing "black people perform competently at teachers, ministers, de-
ler and physicians. "My parents and grandparents certainly
had dignities," he proclaimed.

Following the World War II, the GI Bill created a whole new class of educated blacks, Proctor said. That is where the civil rights movement was given birth, he claimed. The activities of Adam Clayton Powell, the deconcentration
of Africa and Asia, and the 39 Supreme Court victories of the
NAACP all gave impetus to the quest, he said.

Gray comments on racism

President Paul E. Gray '54 pro-
ceded Proctor at the lectern. He
spoke out against the presence of racism in the college
and at MIT itself.

Racist behavior is scary... .
Some of us prefer to believe that it does not occur here. I wish this were true but I know otherwise," Gray said.

Gray cited the recently released
study on "The Racial Climate at
MIT" when he recounted the in-
stances of racism. Faculty and fellow students are too often will-
ing to denigrate the abilities of their black colleagues, Gray said. It is an unfortunate problem that MIT is striving to correct, he claimed.

At the same time, Gray ex-
pressed the hope that people will not ignore the remarkable strides that have been made to improve the situation. Gray did not believe MIT could do much more to help minorities. He lauded such activities as the Minority Summer Science Research Program, Upward Bound and MITES as examples of ways in which MIT is seeking to improve minority life.

MIT is handicapped in its ef-
torts to bring more minority fac-
y and students to the Institute by the limited number of quali-
ied applicants, he said. Gray ex-
pressed hope that information campaigns and innovative pro-
grams would actually improve mi-
nority prospects.

The blame for the delay rests
not only at the university level, but is rooted throughout the edu-
cational system, Gray said. He labelled the problem a responsi-
bility of the whole society, and just
of the universities.

Gray concludes

"The Occasion" the community
was celebrating, the life of King
and the struggle for equality. The audience at Kresge, led by MIT Gospel Choir, sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by James Weldon Johnson.

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