MIT blacked out for up to 6 hours

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ties Plant and Building 39 before Cambridge Electric asked MIT for assistance in bringing normal power back on line. In response to CEIL's request, Physical Plant<div class="pagemarkup">

diversed personnel from the temporary generator to help restore full power, Barrett noted. However, the temporary generator was never fully started up, many buildings, including those containing the "infamous Corridors" were left without emergency power for the duration of the blackout.

Student obstacles to MIT racial harmony

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black making over $36,000, there are twelve below the poverty line. With respect to black college students, and in particular to MIT's black students, Chisholm challenged them to find an area in society where as educated African-Americans they can help their community.

Gray's address, which preceded Chisholm's, was marked by a few minutes of tense confrontation with the demonstrators, who numbered about nine. The demonstrators, some of whom were students, climbed onto the stage of Kresge when Gray walked to the lectern. They held posters aloft and occasionally interrupted Gray.

The audience, many of whom were members of minority groups, booed the protesters for interfering with the commemoration of King. Gray told the demonstrators that they should discuss their concerns with him personally later on, and be quiet during the program out of respect for King's memory. After Gray's speech, the demonstrators climbed off the stage and remained silent through Chisholm's speech.

Gray called for the termination of a "colonial attitude" at MIT. Equal opportunity should not be regarded as doing a favor to underrepresented minorities, but rather as an enriching process at the Institute, Gray said.

The protests who interrupted Equal opportunity held a "February 10 Coalition," according to Shiva Ayyadurai, a member of the coalition. The group contends that MIT has taken no effective measures to combat racism. They claim that financial aid has dropped in past years, and that MIT has dismissed committed administrators and faculty because of their involvement with the black community. The coalition has further charged that MIT Campus Police harass minorities, according to Ayyadurai.

Members of the group labeled the commemoration ceremony as a "hypocritical" action and a "farce," although many applauded Chisholm's address.

Although trash and other debris were thrown around in the central buildings during the blackout, Barrett said that he did not know of any instances of major vandalism or other such property damage. Campus Police also did not have any reports of criminal activity during the blackout, according to Deputy Police Chief James F. Mahoney Jr.

Twenty-four of the 26 smaller automatic generators which support the remaining Institute buildings came on automatically once outside power was lost. But "mechanical problems delayed the start-up of two of the automatic generators," according to Barrett. Because of the delayed start-up, problems with biology laboratory experiments were reported from Building E18, he noted. However, Barrett had not yet been informed of problems with experiments in any of the central campus buildings.

The gas explosion, which occurred at Cottage and River streets, took out power lines connecting Cambridge's two power plants: Kendall Square and Blackstone, according to The Globe. The power, which went out at approximately 5 pm, was restored gradually after an hour of blackout. MIT was one of the last areas in Cambridge to receive power again, Barrett said. Some parts of campus did not have restored power until almost 11 pm.

Currently, Physical Plant is "assessing damage" in an effort to bring all systems back to normal operation. "It's very difficult to get power on line [after such a large blackout]," and once power is restored, time is required to bring everything to order again, Barrett said.

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7:30 p.m.