



December 8, 1967

To Members of the Faculty:

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. J. C. R. Licklider as Professor of Electrical Engineering, effective December 1. In his research activities, Dr. Licklider will be associated with Project MAC and the efforts there to advance the art and understanding of computer systems with which people can interact directly.

Dr. Licklider, a psychologist whose varied research and perceptive writings have brought him recognition as an authority on human interaction with computer systems and data banks, is no stranger to M.I.T. or its Faculty. From 1950 to 1957, he was Associate Professor of Psychology and Communications in the Department of Electrical Engineering and during the academic year 1965-66 he was a Visiting Professor in the Department.

Before coming to M.I.T. and after leaving, Dr. Licklider's activities kept him in touch with the M.I.T. community. After completing his professional education in psychology (A.B. 1937, A.M. 1938, Washington University, St. Louis; Ph.D. 1941, University of Rochester) and a year of teaching at Swarthmore College, he became a research associate and fellow of the Psycho-Acoustic Laboratory at Harvard and his work there brought him into early contact with M.I.T. Faculty interested in related areas of research. He became a Harvard Lecturer in Psychology in 1946 and held that position until he joined the M.I.T. Faculty in 1950.

In 1957, Dr. Licklider left M.I.T. to head three departments at Bolt, Beranek & Newman, Inc., the research-oriented Cambridge firm which itself has close ties to M.I.T. Dr. Licklider headed the Psychoacoustics Department, the Engineering Psychology Department, and the information Systems Research Department. He became a vice president of the firm in 1961.

From 1962 to 1964, Dr. Licklider was Director for Behavioral Sciences and Information Processing Research of the Advanced Research Projects Agency of the Department of Defense.

In 1964 he became consultant to the IBM Director of Research. He is returning to our Faculty from that position.

Dr. Licklider is the author of numerous professional papers relating his background in psychology to problems associated with acoustics, communications and communications theory, data processing and information storage and retrieval. He is the author of the book, Libraries of the Future, and the chapter entitled "Televistas: Looking Ahead Through Side Windows" which appears in the report of the Carnegie Commission on Public Television.

Dr. Licklider is a former president of the Acoustical Society of America and of the Society of Engineering Psychologists. He holds major awards of merit from both organizations. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Psychological Association and a member of the American Physiological Association, the Society of Experimental Psychologists, the Association for Computing Machinery, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Washington Academy of Science, the New York Academy of Science and the Society of Sigma Xi.

GORDON S. BROWN

Dean, School of Engineering