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Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139  
Tel: 864-6900, Ext. 2701

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Establishment of the Philip Sporn Professorship of Energy Processing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was announced by President Howard W. Johnson. Dr. Herbert H. Woodson, professor of electrical engineering, has been appointed to the chair.

The Sporn Professorship honors Philip Sporn, New York, pioneering utility executive and a leader in the advancement of nuclear power. Funding of the chair for ten years was provided by gifts and pledges from electric utility and power companies throughout the country.

"We at M.I.T. are delighted to honor Mr. Sporn, whose engineering and administrative contributions have spanned more than a half-century and have provided the basis for many of the major technological advances in the industry," Mr. Johnson said. "It is particularly appropriate that the chair should be occupied by Professor Woodson, who is working in the forefront of research in power generation."

Professor Woodson's field of specialization is that of electromechanical energy conversion and control. In his teaching, and in his research which he shares with his students, he brings a number of young men up to the frontiers in many aspects of the broad area of energy processing.

Born in Stamford, Texas, in 1925, Professor Woodson entered M.I.T. as a student in 1947 after four years of service in the Navy. He received the S.B. and S.M. degrees in electrical engineering in 1952 and then worked for two years as an electrical engineer in the Naval Ordnance Laboratory at Silver Spring, Md. Returning to M.I.T. as a research assistant, he received the Sc.D. degree and became an assistant professor in 1956. He was promoted to associate professor in 1959 and to professor in 1963.

Professor Woodson's publications include a book, "Electromechanical Energy Conversion," which he coauthored in 1959 with Professor David C. White.

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He is also coauthor with Professor James R. Melcher of a book entitled "Electromechanical Dynamics," soon to be published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. He is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the American Physical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Society for Engineering Education, Tau Beta Pi, Eta Kappa Nu and Sigma Xi. He lives at 154 Standish Road, Watertown.

Mr. Sporn graduated from Columbia University in 1917 and joined the American Gas and Electric Company in 1920. He served as chief engineer and in various other capacities and was president from 1947 to 1961, during which time the company was renamed the American Electric Power Company. Upon his retirement, the directors established a System Development Committee, with Mr. Sporn as chairman, to study the company's engineering and technological activities, with particular emphasis on research on new forms of energy. He served on a number of committees related to the Atomic Energy Commission and was a member of the U.S. delegation to the 1955 Geneva Conference for Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy.

A member of the Corporation Visiting Committee for the Department of Electrical Engineering at M.I.T., Mr. Sporn last month gave four lectures at the Institute on "Technology, Engineering and Economics," sponsored by the Schools of Humanities and Social Science, Engineering and Management. He is a member of the National Academy of Science and the National Academy of Engineering.

Donors to the professorship include Allegheny Power System, American Electric Power Company, Inc., Columbus & Southern Ohio Electric Company, Dayton Power and Light Company, General Electric Company, Island Creek Coal Company, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, Pennsylvania Power & Light Company and Union Electric Company.

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