



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 21, 1969

To Members of the Faculty:

I regret to announce the death of Dr. John W. M. Bunker, distinguished bacteriologist and former Dean of the Graduate School, on March 21 after a long illness. After his retirement as Dean in 1952 he had served as Special Adviser to the President and was in charge of the Registry of Guests for five years. During thirty-six years of service he was esteemed for his scholarly dedication and warmth of character.

Dr. Bunker was born on July 10, 1886 in Toungoo, Burma, the son of Baptist missionaries who were among the first to sail around the Cape of Good Hope to a station. He was brought back to the United States as a child by his mother, to be educated and was graduated from Brown University in 1909, receiving the A. M. degree in 1910 and the Ph. D. in 1912.

From 1911 to 1915 Dr. Bunker was an instructor at Harvard University, where he organized a new laboratory of sanitary engineering and a course in bacteriology. He was then director of the biological division of Digestive Ferments Company, Detroit, until 1921, when he became an assistant professor of physiology and biochemistry at M.I.T. He was promoted to associate professor in 1924 and professor in 1928.

Professor Bunker was Director of the Research Laboratories of Biology from 1936 to 1940 and in 1937 was placed in charge of a new course in biophysics and biological engineering. He was chairman of committees on patents for a number of years. During World War II he was Security Officer for M.I.T. and he was a special consultant in the Office of Field Service, OSRD, for 1944-45. In 1940 Dr. Bunker was appointed Dean of the Graduate School at a time important in its development.

Dr. Bunker was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was a member of the American Public Health Association, the American Chemical Society, the Boston Bacteriological Society, the Society of American Bacteriologists, the American Society for Engineering Education, Delta Tau Delta, Alpha Chi Sigma, Delta Omega and Sigma Xi. He was a member of the faculty of the Bouve School of Physical Education from 1921 to 1927 and later a member of its advisory council. He also was a trustee of Lawrence Academy, served as president of the New England Conference on Graduate Education for 1946-47 and was a member of the board of directors of the International Student Association of Boston. He was elected an honorary member of the M.I.T. Alumni Association in 1950.

Dean Bunker's first wife, Mrs. Helen Cranshaw Bunker, died in 1950 and he was married in 1953 to Mrs. Hazel K. Stockbarger, widow of Dr. Donald C. Stockbarger, an M.I.T. physicist. He is survived by Mrs. Bunker; three daughters, Mrs. J. K. Ross, Montreal, Canada, Mrs. R. P. Curtis, Marblehead, Mass., and Mrs. W. J. Finney, Accokeek,

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Md. , and Mrs. Bunker's two children, Donald Stockbarger, Washington, D. C. , and Mrs. Kenneth R. Wadleigh, Belmont, wife of the Dean of Student Affairs.

A memorial service will be held at 3:30 p. m. Monday in the M.I.T. Chapel. The family requests that no flowers be sent. Contributions may be made to CARE or the American Cancer Society.

Howard W. Johnson