Reading Questions

“MIT AS SYSTEM-BUILDER: SAGE,” IN RESCUING PROMETHEUS
STS.069,ONE DAY AFTER CLASS #4.

Note: Do not get bogged down in the details of his
narrative. Read it quickly until you get to a part
where you realize Hughes is stating a larger point, and
then slow down. Focus your reading on the following
questions: What is the basic premise of this chapter?
What are the reverse salient and the critical problem
in this story? What does this narrative tell you about
the interplay between military and civilian
technologies in recent times? What does this chapter
tell you about the organization of technological
system-building? In particular, what does it tell you
about MIT as a site of technological innovation and
development? What does it tell you about MIT’s values
(note the epigram at the head of the chapter],
organization, and culture? Do you think that MIT’s
values, organization, and culture and culture have
changed from the 1950s? If so, how does this affect
MIT’s ability to undertake “its special responsibility
to render public service” at the present? If not, does
MIT need to change in order to undertake this
responsibility effectively? For extra credit: What is
happening these days at Lincoln Lab? At MITRE? With Jay
Forrester?