By Barbara Cohen

Dr. Jerome B. Wiesner finds the change from the academic political world of Washington to the calmer academic atmosphere of Cambridge a pleasant one. Of late years as President Kennedy's Special Assistant for Science and Technology, and in presently a member of President Johnson's Science Advisory Committee.

In Washington as part of his job at the Library of Congress, he accompanied Alan Lomax, professor of folklore at the University of Pennsylvania, on a tour of villages in Georgia, Alabama, and North Carolina, even to be flooded by TVA dams. They interviewed the residents to have their singing preserved, recording songs and stories of the region.

Crete to MIT

In May, 1962, Dr. Wiesner first came to MIT to work at the Radiation Laboratory, which was developing radar techniques for the war effort. In 1944 he was appointed Group Leader of Project Gallery, which was aimed at developing a space-radar missile system to save our warships from the suicide dives of Japanese Kamikaze pilots. For his work on this project, President Truman awarded him the Certificate of Merit.

In 1946, Wiesner became a proponent of communications engineering at MIT. Here he joined a series of separate seminars, organized by the late Prof. Norbert Wiener, then on the faculty. To further the implications of cybernetics, these were attended by mathematicians, physicists, electrical engineers, philosophers, psychologists, biologists, and neurosurgists.

RLE Director

Prof. Wiesner became professor of the Research Laboratory of Electronics, and in 1948 was given the additional post of head of the Department of Electrical Engineering. Despite his many outside interests and his involvement in the social and political issues of the day, Dr. Wiesner's work in communications science was sufficient to have drawn on this brain trust for information.

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