Continuing arms race menaces security—Wiesner

Productivity up, too

Continuing arms race menaces security—Wiesner

(Continued from Page 1) You have to have some intelligent plans for new community better transportation, and new industry.

As an example of the possible new fields of research, the Dean pointed out that there are sixty million Americans going to school today, yet there is practically no development in the educational field. He also cited the need for faster intercity transportation and mentioned both super-express airlines and 200 mile per hour railroads.

Dean Wiesner pointed out that work needs to be done to eliminate automobile accidents and to reduce the damage in those that do occur. Work must also be done, he said, in space conservation of natural resources and to fight such problems as water pollution.

When asked which of these fields he would recommend more effort be given to if he were still science advisor, the Dean replied, "I recommended all of them when I was in Washington."

Research and Education

Commenting on the occasional emphasis on research versus undergraduate education at MIT, Wiesner said that it is wrong to speak of research as something apart from education. In fact, he said, MIT would have no business doing research that did not help its educational function. Moreover, research is an indirect way of improving MIT's environment.

The Dean acknowledged that over the past few decades research budgets have increased much more rapidly than teaching expenditures in the School of Science. However, he said, this has productivity. While it is difficult to quantify the productivity of the research work, expensive laboratory equipment and computational aids now make it possible for students to do jobs that couldn't be done by anyone twenty years ago.

Moreover, graduate education involves considerable research; and the cost of a block of research time roughly doubles each decade.

The dean said that undergraduate teaching costs have not kept pace with rapid growth in research costs because teaching methods have remained relatively unchanged. The only real rise in the cost of undergraduate education is the rise in the teachers' salaries, and the cost of buildings, he explained.

NASA needs MIT

Concerning the location of the NASA Space Research Center to be built near MIT, Dean Wiesner said that NASA felt that they needed to be near both MIT and Harvard and that MIT took no official action to have them locate close by.

He added that the NASA Center will have no direct effect on MIT except that it will redeploy the industrial area behind the Institute. Its primary effect, he said, will be to develop the research centers; NASA will ultimately bring hundreds of millions of dollars into the area.

The center is not likely to affect MIT's science research program, he said, though there will be some interchange between MIT and NASA staff.

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