Nixon to hike R&D funding

By Paul Schindler
President Nixon, in an address to a joint session of Congress yesterday afternoon, strongly implied increased funding for research and development. Nixon told Congress: "I shall present [legislation for] new approaches toward insuring the maximum enlistment of American technology in meeting the challenges of peace."

Observers at MIT, in general, seemed to feel that if the past is any guide, MIT can expect at least part of any new funds appropriated for technological research. But no one was saying for sure yet. Although he was in Washington visiting some congressional friends last night, Dr. Wiesner said he received no inkling of the President's upcoming remarks.

Dr. Wiesner did not hear the President's speech, but when informed of its content by The Tech, he said that it was "conceivable" that MIT might get more federal funds. "MIT certainly has plenty to offer; if the government is really serious, they could challenge us to help solve these problems."

The President called a strong peacetime economy, with low unemployment and little inflation, one of the major challenges of peace, and felt it a goal that the Administration would work towards, along with its previously announced goal of a generation of peace.

"Technology alone will not buy us security," Wiesner said, however, "Nor will it replace new ideas, work or common sense. It makes a difference as to whether peace is assured by a better international situation or by more weapons."

The thrust of Nixon's proposal was explained by a staff member of Ron Ziegler's White House press staff: the legislative drive will be spearheaded by William MacGruder, who previously headed up the unsuccessful Nixon SST effort. The effort will be two-pronged: MacGruder will work with Assistant for International Economic Affairs Peterson to "produce patentable scientific breakthroughs on technological manufacturing capabilities relating to the balance of payments"; he will also work with Science and Technology Adviser Dr. E.E. David on "new government-industry partnerships which might produce breakthroughs."

MIT administration officials saw only one cloud on the horizon, but were reluctant to discuss it. Usually reliable sources indicated that most of academia is "in the dog house" with the Administration, and that this fact might reduce its share of (Continued on opposite page)

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