How Jerry Wiesner runs the Institute

very plush furniture, the soft carpeting, and the pictures and momento which dot the room. The book lined shelves here and there (which include such titles as "Solid State Theory" and Dr. Bush's "Science Is Not Enough") add a den-like atmosphere, as does the fireplace.

The walls hold many photos including ones of John and Edward Kennedy. Wiesner's wife and daughter, and an excellent color photograph of the touching moment during the inauguration ceremony when Archibald MacLeish and Dr. Wiesner embraced. However, there is nothing on the order of the great working class mural outside of Chancellor Gray's office.

There is one piece of wire sculpture in the office, a unicyclist on a tightrope, sitting on the corner of the granite desk which Wiesner works at most of the day. Called "The Presidency," it was a gift from FW to President Kennedy who used to balance little name tags on each end of the balancing pole, like "congress - constituency" or "DOD - Soviets." After the assassination, Mrs. Lincoln got it back for Wiesner. He tells the story behind it a couple of times a day (and if you ask, he'll tell you it doesn't apply to the MIT presidency. "Unlike some places, we don't have those kind of antagonisms here.")

Lunch is not so simple ...

Lunch is not merely a time to eat, if you are President of MIT. There are a lot of people who want to see you every day, and it is almost unfair not to make better use of your lunch hour than mere eating. After the assassination, Mrs. Lincoln got it back for Wiesner. He tells the story behind it a couple of times a day (and if you ask, he'll tell you it doesn't apply to the MIT presidency. "Unlike some places, we don't have those kind of antagonisms here.")

Dr. Wiesner during one of his appointments. Note the painting behind the desk, and the piles of paper

ball, or in the central area between their offices, or in some other meeting they are from one office to another, but they prefer to meet face to face. Simonides' role seems to be that of briefing officer, to a degree. He will sometimes handle requests for information that Wiesner and Gray do not have time to get to right away. He will troubleshoot, occasionally draft letters, and at least on this particular occasion, came in to brief the President before the faculty meeting.

Even the president's day ends, eventually...

Today, Dr. Wiesner worked in his office until 6 o'clock, when he met the council. The next day he went to bed until 1:30 or 2 (as he does frequently), he is always up the next morning, 6:30 am, bright and early, to get to right away. He will think of the day, or work on the final pipe of the day. No matter whether he doesn't go to bed until 1:30 or 2 (as he does (generally), he is always up the next morning, 6:30 am, bright and early, to start another day.

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