Research Policy Under Fire // -Devil's Advocate' Denounces Kennedy's Science Policies

By JOIN TROAN Scripps-Howard Science Writer

science chief today ig-nored charges that "a small group" of under-lings with "little proven competence" have seized control of "a major frac-tion of Government research policy."

Dr. Philip H. Abelson, self-t ible and invisible power than styled "Drvil's Advocate" and any scientist in the peacetime The charges were made by editor of one of the nation's most respected science jour-nals, in a talk last night in Houston.

Dr. Abelson contended the Federal Government's "present mechanisms for policy-making with respect to sci-ence and technology are badly in need of overhaul

"Too much power is concentrated in a few over-worked people, most of whom are of limited competence," he said.

He argued that such a sitrie argueu that surn a site agency created has year. As uation, compounded by Gov- its director, Dr. Wiesner ernment secrecy, "must in-evitably lead to corruption either of the intellect or of the purse." He complained that the staff

Dr. Jerome B. Wiesner, an electronics engineer, is the President's chief science ad-President's chief science ad-viser. He is to return to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology about Feb. 1 and be succeeded by Dr. Donald F. Hornig, Princeton Uni-versity chemist.

Dr. Wiesner declined com-tent. But associates said he ment. resented what he regards as an unjustified attack on his staff.

Carnegie Institution of Wash-President Kennedy's Ington and edits Science, official journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

> Dr. Abelson likened Dr. Wiesner to a "czar of science" who, since his appointment by three years ago, "has accumulated and exercised more visany scientist in the peacetime history of the country." Althe

> Dr. Abelson said there's no way to judge how good a job Dr. Wiesner has done because most of his activity has been clor', d in secrecy. But he indicated he didn't think Dr. Wiesner had done too well.

> Dr. Abelson's main attack, however, was directed at the 16 "professional aides" who staff the Office of Science and Technology, a White House agency created last year. As

> He complained that the stall men "are not a distinguished group" tho they are supposed to be "highly trained special-ists." Besides, he said, they have been "throwing their weight around" at other Fed-eral agencies involved in re-search — "distressing" the agency heads and undermin-ing employe morale. ing employe morale.

Dr. Abelson contended these underlings have taken con-trol of "a major fraction of Government research policy" because Dr. Wiesner-"one of the most conscientious, hard-working men in Washington" has been trying to handle

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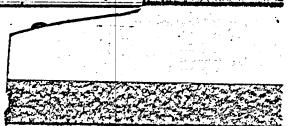
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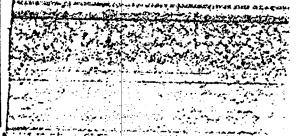
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is head of geophysics at the more problems than any hu-

Dr. Abelson said Dr. Wiesner is not only the President's personal science adviser and director of the Office of Science and Technology but chairman of the 18-man President's Science Advisory Com-President Kennedy almost mittee, chairman of the Federal Council on Science and Technology, "de facto director" of the Budget Bureau in charge of research and development money, and "Person-nel Procurement Officer for Scientific Posts" within the U. S. Government.

Dr. Abelson insisted the job of-presidential science adviser "is a big one which merits full-time effort" and thus should be divorced from the Office of Science and Tech-nology. However, President Kennedy has announced Dr. Hornig will hold both jobs.





Dr. Abelson, first U. S. scientist to split the atom, now

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