April 26, 1965

To Members of the Faculty:

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Arthur C. Cope, Head of the Department of Chemistry, has been selected to be the first Camille Dreyfus Professor. The Dreyfus Professorship is the first endowed chair in the M.I.T. Department of Chemistry. Made possible by a grant from the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, the professorship honors the memory of a distinguished chemist and industrialist, Dr. Camille Dreyfus, who with his brother Henry, undertook early basic research in cellulosic chemistry, successfully made the first cellulose acetate yarn, and formed three major chemical-industrial enterprises: British Celanese, Ltd., Canadian Celanese, Ltd. and Celanese Corporation of America.

Dr. Cope, a native of Dunreith, Indiana, received his B.S. from Butler University in 1929 and was awarded his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1932. From 1932 to 1934 he was a National Research Fellow at Harvard University, working with Professor E. P. Kohler.

In 1934, Dr. Cope accepted a position as associate in chemistry at Bryn Mawr College, was appointed assistant professor one year later and associate professor in 1938. In addition to teaching he did research on condensation and alkylation reactions, discovering the reaction now known by his name involving rearrangement of allyl groups in a three-carbon system. In 1941, while holding a Guggenheim fellowship for "Studies of the Phenomenon of Tautomerism" he joined the faculty of Columbia University as an associate professor. While there he continued his research on reductive alkylation and preparation of various amines and aminoalcohols.

From 1942 to 1944 Dr. Cope was given a leave of absence from Columbia to serve full time as technical aide of the National Defense Research Committee. In this capacity he was responsible for aiding administration of various military research programs in such diverse areas as chemical warfare agents and antimalarial drugs. For his services, he was given the Certificate of Merit of the U.S. Government.

COPE APPT. LETTER

In January 1945, Dr. Cope came to M.I.T. as Professor of Organic Chemistry and Head of the Division of Organic Chemistry. In July of that year he became Head of the Department of Chemistry. He began research on cyclic polyolefins and initially he worked with cyclooctatetraenes. In 1952 he observed the first transannular reaction of medium-size ring compounds and since that time has continued to work in this area, which involves studies on proximity effects of various substituents.

Dr. Cope has distinguished himself as an organic chemist and has been the recipient of several awards. In 1944 he received the annual American Chemical Society

Award in Pure Chemistry for his contributions in the fields of synthetic organic chemistry and molecular rearrangements. In 1958 he was presented with the annual Charles Frederick Chandler Medal by Columbia University for his pioneer work on the chemistry of medium-sized ring compounds and for his recognition of transannular reactions. In 1964 he was awarded the William H. Nichols Medal by the ACS New York Section. At the 19th National Organic Symposium in June of this year, Dr. Cope will receive the Roger Adams Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to research in organic chemistry.

Dr. Cope's influence on the world of chemistry is not confined to research. He served as ACS President in 1961 and has recently been elected to a sixth term as Chairman of the ACS Board of Directors. He has been on the board of editors of "Organic Reactions," "Organic Syntheses," "Journal of the American Chemical Society," and "Journal of Organic Chemistry." Dr. Cope is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences as well as the American Philosophical Society. To date he has published more than 200 papers and has made outstanding contributions to chemical education.

JEROME B. WIESNER
Dean, School of Science