

The forum expressed concern that certain areas of the life sciences for which the 'pay-off' to society may be very great are not receiving adequate support. An example is preventive medicine.

'Big Science' proposals should not be dismissed out of hand, especially if they have relevance or uniqueness for Canada or if support for them is available elsewhere in Canada or abroad.

BASIC RESEARCH IN-HOUSE The Ministry of State for Science and Technology should undertake a detailed inventory of the research activities carried out by all government agencies, for use as a management tool leading to decisions concerning the allocation of research projects between government, universities, and industry.

Most in-house basic research should not be concentrated in a National Research Academy as suggested in the Senate committee report. There may be a need, however, for a new national institute for the social sciences.

INDUSTRIAL TASK FORCES The forum agreed with the Senate committee report that Canada *must* improve its innovative capacity to maintain adequate economic growth. The first step is to improve the climate for industry, and the government has the requisite machinery to do this through the establishment of appropriate taxation, judicious tariffs, enlightened labour laws, a strong patent system, adequate appropriate standards, tailored support programs, etc. To date this machinery has not been used effectively.

Although the forum agreed with the committee that task forces can play a useful role in facilitating dialogue on specific problems between government and industry, delegates believed that rationalization of industry would be beyond task forces' capabilities.

INDUSTRY-UNIVERSITY RELATIONS Industry-university relations should continue to be strengthened through existing mechanisms, such as the industrial research institutes and some of the projects initiated by the NRC. The universities should be encouraged to increase the amount of applied research they do through contracts from industry. The strengthening of university-industry interactions can be particularly relevant in helping to correct regional disparities.

INDUSTRY-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS The forum concurred with the principle of having science policy advisers for all government departments with a significant direct or indirect impact on industrial innovation (such as through buying power), as recommended in the report of the Senate committee.