

Government Organization

kind are made, a rationale should be given. If they are handled in this way it tends to destroy morale. Everyone will always wonder what's going to get the chop next.

The third cancellation was in respect of The Queen Elizabeth Observatory. This project was scrapped even though millions of dollars had been spent on it. Once again the government has refused to release its report regarding the reasons for that decision.

A fourth point is that there is a significant lack of funds required for research into urban problems in Canada. As H. W. Hignett, President of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation told the Senate special committee studying science policy; C.M.H.C. has a mere \$10 million revolving fund for assistance in this area. Everyone who is involved in research knows that this is a mere pittance. Government programs for industrial-scientific research and development are completely inadequate.

Last week about this time I devoted a whole speech to this subject so I shall not go over the same ground again except to say it is a fact worth repeating that the federal government is spending over 50 per cent of the money devoted to research and development in the military sector. This is something about which we as Canadians should be deeply concerned. These things, plus additional factors such as the tremendous expansion in government oceanographic research announced in January and the successful satellite research program which is being conducted by the new Department of Communications, clearly reveal that we do not have a coherent, cogent, highly motivated technological and research program in this country.

Senator Lamontagne, hardly an enemy of the government and chairman of the Senate committee, stated that scientists running federal research projects have so little supervision by parliament that they constitute an almost autonomous republic of science. He went on to state that government sponsored scientific research has never been reviewed systematically and said that even cabinet to his knowledge paid very little attention to it except when it was appraising on rare occasions specific and major programs. Senator Lamontagne has discovered in his committee's investigation that there are at least 100 boards and committees comprising about 700 scientists dealing with government research and development. He said that for all practical purposes the supervision and direction of those activities are left to scientists acting in

an administrative or advisory capacity. Decisions of social merit and human welfare cannot be left exclusively to scientists no matter how well motivated they may be as individuals.

After this very brief rundown of some unpalatable facts in respect of scientific development I should like to turn to the government's reorganization proposal. As the Glasco commission pointed out as long ago as 1958, there are basic contradictions and conflicts in the institutional environment regarding the determination of science policy in the government. The National Research Council should not be looked upon as the adviser to the government on scientific priorities since it is competing for the very same funds allocated in this area.

The Privy Council committee on scientific and industrial research, whose purpose it was to determine priorities, has been completely inactive since it was first established in 1916. It has been estimated that it has met only a dozen times since 1916. The establishment of the Science Council and Science Secretariat in 1965 and 1966 to fill this role has clearly shown severe limitations. The secretariat was to serve two masters, the Privy Council office with advice on scientific matters to the Prime Minister and also the Science Council of Canada as its secretary. This conflict of interest was obvious to all except the government.

The new legislation in the bill before the house merely gives the Science Council the same status and independence as the Economic Council of Canada. In other words, it will now hire its own staff rather than share with the government the staff of the science Secretariat. Thus the council's report will no longer be examined by those who participate in its implementation. The purpose of the Science Council when it was established in 1966 was to offer advice on public policy with regard to science and technology and to examine the role of our scientific effort in relation to Canada's aspirations. However, the Science Council has found itself confronted with the same difficulties in the formulation of objectives as were experienced by the Economic Council of Canada. Goals were established without any view of the relative importance of each and thus, for example, space and water resources programs were given priority by the Science Council in its last annual report merely for the bad reason that detailed proposals for implementation of these programs existed at the time.