

## Governments and Economic Research

And this brings me to the concluding part of my remarks. The Federal Government, through its Bureau of Statistics, has been making available comprehensive statistical information on the operations of Canadian industries and the growth of domestic as well as foreign markets. We of the Department of Trade and Commerce, in carrying on the work of the former Department of Reconstruction and Supply, have done and continue to do a certain amount of work analysing economic trends in Canada and assessing what they may mean for business in general and for government policy formulation in particular. While Trade and Commerce acts as a service agency in this respect, many other government departments do important work in specific fields. You have just to look at the Budget White Papers, the Monthly Statistical Summary of the Bank of Canada, the quarterly issues of "Housing in Canada", prepared by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and the various publications of the Departments of Labour, Agriculture, Fisheries, Resources and Development and Mines and Technical Surveys, to realize that Canada has come a long way in making available to the public both basic data and the results of economic analysis.

A most encouraging feature has been the development of statistical and analytical agencies in various provincial governments. Greater interest is now taken in the nature of the economic development taking place in each province and what it means to the people living in each region, city or area.

### Research in the Service of Provincial Development

While economic and statistical units have been established in provincial governments in more recent years, organized research in the physical and natural sciences on a provincial level dates back much further. The first such organization was the Research Council of Alberta which was set up in 1921. It was followed by the Ontario Research Foundation established in 1928. Other provinces followed the example, and now every province either has a formal organization or takes an interest in industrial research in conjunction with universities and business groups.

The creation of provincial facilities in the field of industrial research has made it easier for many of you concerned with industrial development to provide the service you felt was needed to assist local industrialists and foreign manufacturers trying to establish a plant in your region. You learned that bright phrases and liberal use of expense allowances are not enough to persuade a man to locate his industry in your province. You realized pretty quickly that what businessmen wanted were facts, not just one or two but a multitude, which only a well organized group with wide contacts can provide by drawing on its own resources and those of others. Partly by building up such organizations in your own units and partly by getting help from other departments in your governments of the Federal Government, from municipalities, from institutions and business groups, most of you have reached the stage where you can provide the service that the public appears to expect and in fact gets from its provincial governments. Thus, as I said at the beginning, you have come a long way. The days have gone when you were simply trying to sell a commodity, and today you are providing a highly skilled service. Yours is a function which has been progressively modified to meet efficiently the changing needs of Canadian industry. This is indeed true public service.