

Dr. BOYER: There could be a five or six-year program in which we could increase the staff as well as the facilities needed in relation with this increase in staff.

Mr. NIELSEN: Is the department doing anything along these lines?

Dr. BOYER: In certain areas in the department we are. For example we are thinking of an increase in the geological survey. That is at present under discussion and being appraised as to its merits, the amount of money that would be needed, and the timing of the project.

Mr. NIELSEN: Are you setting a target for increasing your program by a 50 per cent figure?

Dr. BOYER: Somewhat. It would translate into a sizeable increase in the program. If you say "program", it is not just in the field, but also in research and laboratory work.

Mr. NIELSEN: Could you indicate to the committee what agency, if any, within your department has the responsibility for research and planning?

Dr. BOYER: Research and planning in the department is the responsibility of the minister, the deputy minister and the director-general of scientific services; and each of the branch directors is also responsible in his particular field—geology, astronomy, surveys and mapping. It is their responsibility to suggest to us what is the program that best fits the needs of the country. We lean heavily on the branch directors, because they, as experts, know the score in each of their fields of endeavour.

So, research and planning is rather a group effort. It is no unique responsibility of one individual. It is this group which can really assess the situation and see where an increase in activities is warranted.

Mr. NIELSEN: Would I be too far out of line if I suggested that the department, then, paces its activities to the rapidity of development in the country, rather than the reverse, with the department setting the pace and development following along in the wake of that pace.

Dr. BOYER: We try to feel that we have to keep abreast of the situation. In research in the mines branch, for example, if low-grade ores are what the future will call for, supposing that most of our high-grade ore deposits will have been mined out, we undertake research in order to find or improve processes for the extraction of metals and minerals from low-grade ores.

We try to be abreast of the situation. And the same is true of mapping, geology and the other scientific endeavours in the department. In the way of development generally we try also to relate the normal growth of the department to the tempo of increase in activities in Canada.

Mr. NIELSEN: In other words, you are constantly striving to set the pace?

Dr. BOYER: To set the pace, and we try to be abreast of the situation and not just follow up on it.

Mr. COMTOIS: We must also consider the requirements of other departments of Government, too.

Mr. NIELSEN: You are familiar with—

Mr. COMTOIS: For instance, the Department of National Defence. We have to give priority to those requirements.

Mr. NIELSEN: You are familiar with the reorganization of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, where they have set up a director of research and a director of planning.

Is there any thinking that this might be implemented in the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys?