

complete lack of appreciation of scientific possibilities by industry, while industrialists bewailed the uselessness and snobbery of the academic product. We found this situation more aggravated than in most advanced countries and it seems to me to be one that requires a deliberate effort to rectify.<sup>27</sup>

While almost all the briefs recognized this problem and most also accepted the Committee's proposal, they pointed out that it was not easy to find a practical solution. The Electronic Industries Association of Canada (EIAC), for instance, stated that "this recommendation is almost totally supported" but warned that past efforts, notably the Canadian Organization for Joint Research, "have not been successful . . . mainly through lack of interest." The CMA also referred to past failures and warned: "Unless, therefore, there is one mechanism created to implement the best proposals, it would be pointless to hold a conference." The CCPA expressed the view that "a single conference would be unwieldy as a working body."

The pessimism revealed by these comments is probably exaggerated and may result in part from a misunderstanding of the nature and purpose of the proposed conference. The lack of interest shown in the past may not be as strong today. It appears that Canadian universities have passed their golden age as far as financial support is concerned. Many members of the academic community are worried about the future and realize their sector cannot be as autonomous as it was and continue to operate in its traditional splendid isolation. Canadian industry is increasingly aware that it cannot as easily rely on immigration to satisfy its need for qualified scientists and engineers, that it should become more interested in the scientific and engineering training received by young Canadians, and that it might with advantage rely more on research contracts and subcontracts with universities. So the time may be ripe for a successful meeting between the two communities.

The idea put forward by the Committee was not to hold another conference without adequate preparation or follow-up mechanism, but "to devise the best possible permanent institutional basis for maintaining a continuing liaison and co-operation in the future." A working group might well be asked to prepare reports on various institutional alternatives that could be discussed during the national conference, and preliminary regional meetings could consider the same issues. Eventually several institutions and mechanisms could be agreed upon, for it is doubtful whether a single channel would be sufficient to maintain continuing liaison and co-operation among a great number of independent units dispersed throughout a country of this size. We still believe that the conference we proposed would accomplish a most useful purpose.