

inventions. I think the government should control that policy. That has always been our stand, and we have been consistent in it.

In my view the government should control the policy, but should not enter into the production of articles for sale. I think it can be more effective if it controls the policy in respect of the development of these resources. For that reason I am in doubt as to the explanation the minister has given, and I wonder whether his explanation is sound when he said the word "sell" would not prevent the research council from going into the commercial business of selling patent rights. If it does, then in my view it should not be so. I believe these patent rights are of interest to the whole nation. They should be retained by the research council, but should be let out to companies which should pay royalties for the use of them.

Then, those companies should be compelled to use such rights. I say that because in the past there have been examples of companies retaining important patent rights and refusing to develop them. That is not in the interests of Canada. When the government retains ownership and control of rights, letting them out on a royalty or rental basis, it would be in a position then carefully and judicially to control policy. I believe it should stay out of the market.

Mr. GREEN: What is the underlying policy of the research council with regard to these patents on inventions made by technical employees of the council? There seems to be some confusion on the point, and I did not get clearly from the minister's statement just what the policy has been?

It is quite clear that there have been many worth-while inventions during the war. With the council carrying on an expanded peacetime programme, there are likely to be more in the future—and we hope that that may be so. Is it the policy that, as these inventions are made and patents obtained, the right to use such patents will be given as widely as possible in Canada to any business concerns which can make use of them or, on the other hand, is it the policy to sell the right to a patent to some firm at the best price obtainable? It seems to me there is a big difference between those two policies, and I should like to know what the plan is.

I realize that if rights are being sold to another country, or to people outside Canada, it is only right and proper that they should pay a proper price for those rights. But it does seem that within Canada a different rule should apply.

Mr. HOWE: It has been the practice of the national research council to patent inventions made by employees of the council in the right of the crown in Canada. It has not been the policy of the Canadian government to sell its patent, so far as use in Canada is concerned. It has been the policy to grant non-exclusive licences.

My hon. friend asks if everyone who wants a licence can get one. That does not necessarily follow.

Mr. GREEN: No, I did not go that far. I referred to those who could honestly make use of the right in their business.

Mr. HOWE: It has been the policy to grant non-exclusive rights. How many non-exclusive rights will be granted in the same field is a matter of policy for the research council to decide.

Mr. COLDWELL: If it has been the policy of the national research council not to sell, then why include the provision at all?

Mr. HOWE: I was coming to that.

Mr. COLDWELL: It is the change in wording that is puzzling us. It looks like a change in policy.

Mr. HOWE: If I could finish my statement without interruption, perhaps I could make it clear. We have referred to the use in Canada of patents of the national research council. But the handling of patents goes much beyond that. As I say, by arrangement with similar organizations, the national research council is the agent of the United States research authorities for the handling of United States patents in Canada, and also for the handling of United Kingdom government patents in Canada. It may be the policy of the government owning the patent that it should be sold rather than leased.

There is also the matter of the foreign use of Canadian government patents. For instance, the patent rights in Egypt or in China of a Canadian patent might be better sold than leased. This simply gives flexibility to those who determine policy as regards the handling of patents, so that they can act in the interests of the Canadian government in the disposal of either their own patent or the patents of other governments which have been placed in their custody for disposal.

Mr. NICHOLSON: This afternoon I mentioned the discovery of a process to make glycol from low-grade wheat and damp frosted wheat. I understand that this glycol has stood up well, when compared with Prestone. My