

"The SCITEC Forum on Science Policy was held at the National Conference Centre, Ottawa, on 30 and 31 October 1972. The forum included participants from university, government, and industry, representing groups that are closely concerned with matters of science policy.

The major points emerging from discussions in the ten workshops and the plenary sessions were as follows:

PLANNING Delegates agreed that the solution of Canada's problems will call for more effective use of science and technology, but emphasized that science policy must be closely linked to the country's social, economic, and political objectives. They expressed concern about the effect that the large degree of foreign ownership has on the climate for industrial research and development in Canada.

There was a strong feeling that Canada should build on existing capabilities and achievements. The forum therefore expressed concern at the complex arbitrary organizational structures proposed in the report of the Senate special committee on science policy. Any new institutional structures should be based on a recognition of the continuum that embraces all stages, from basic science through applied science, development, and innovation. This might be achieved by establishing more multidisciplinary research and development groups with limited life and specific goals.

A national, total effort is called for to build up applied research and development in Canada, but this must be accomplished without losing sight of the great importance of basic research.

It is desirable to develop centres of excellence, but these cannot be achieved through the present mechanism of concentrating on grants to individuals. There are regional disparities in the opportunities to initiate and maintain such centres, and development grants could serve as a useful method to assist in their correction.

MANPOWER AND TRAINING The forum agreed that manpower needs should be assessed as precisely as possible, but it was aware of the fallible nature of manpower surveys. It emphasized that manpower studies could be performed most satisfactorily by representatives of the professional and scientific societies, because these are the groups closest to the problems.

Research is believed to be an integral part of the teaching process. Consequently, teaching and research in the university should not be separated.

PRIORITIES IN BASIC RESEARCH Delegates accepted that the need for more and better social science research justifies the high priority proposed for it, but they understood 'priority' to refer to the differential rate of growth of funding rather than to absolute amounts.