

*Science Council of Canada*

professional and other groups who may be asked for, or who may volunteer advice, assistance and information.

Provision will be made in the Privy Council office vote for general administration for the costs of operating the council, including remuneration of the chairman, travelling expenses of members, salaries of secretarial personnel, fees of consultants, and the expenses of conducting special studies and preparing reports.

The government believes that the Science Council of Canada will be in a position to perform essential and especially useful functions in assessing Canada's scientific and technological resources, requirements and potentialities. It is believed that the proposed structure and composition of the council are sound, that the duties assigned are appropriate and sufficiently comprehensive, and the objectives realistic.

**Mr. Reg Cantelon (Kindersley):** Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak on this bill to establish the Science Council of Canada I would like to say at once that it has my hearty approval, and I think that of all members of the house. However I am somewhat disturbed by one thing that the minister has emphasized in his careful and thoughtful speech, namely that the council will have no power. It will be purely a recommending body, but I hope the recommendations it makes will receive most careful consideration by the government. If they do not, then I am afraid it will be a quite useless body.

Like many others I have been greatly distressed that the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), after mentioning this proposal in two throne speeches, has taken so long to get it before parliament. Surely he must know how important this type of legislation is to Canada's future.

In society as it exists today the need for research is very evident. It is not only evident, it is essential if this country is to maintain and improve its industrial output and, of course, its standard of living. It is essential if we are to keep in the forefront of medical progress and transmit research developments into a better life for all Canadians.

I hope, and I trust my hope is not misplaced, that this council will be a factor in seeing that research in all fields receives more money. I hope too that the council will have the sympathetic ear of the Prime Minister and the cabinet. Unless it has it will be, as I say, useless.

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We know there is an enormous demand for funds for research projects from every university. They know the necessity facing our country more clearly than perhaps we in this house do. Undoubtedly there would be similar demands from industry if it felt that there was any prospect of getting aid.

All research has been squeezed for funds. In consequence of this shortage of money and the second grade position that research has had we have lost, through what is commonly called the brain drain, many scientific people whom we could ill afford to lose.

The minister has quoted figures to show that in the United States something like 36 per cent of graduates are doing research, while in this country the percentage is around 15 per cent. That is much too small. Of course, he went on to point out that we are approximately 10 years behind the United States. I hope, as does he, that we can close this gap, but it is going to cost a good deal of money to do it.

Recently United States authorities provided figures which show that in a two year period from June 1963 to June 1965, of the more than 100,000 Canadians who emigrated to the United States, somewhat more than 50,000 were wage earners. Among these wage earners were 1,765 engineers and scientists. There were 1,187 technicians, 163 industrial designers, 258 university professors, 820 physicians and surgeons, 725 accountants and auditors, and 2,040 trained nurses. I think that is terrible and I am sure the minister will agree.

We cannot afford to lose these people, not only because they are our best skilled and potentially valuable people but because they indicate a heavy financial loss to us. It has been estimated that one such person has cost the state \$10,000 to educate, and from this it can be seen that on the 1,765 engineers alone we lost \$17 million.

● (8:10 p.m.)

Today we are spending something like 1 per cent of our gross national product on research and development. The United States is spending more than 3 per cent for this, while countries like Belgium and France spend more than 1 per cent. We are not spending nearly enough. It is far too little to produce the result we want. Of course, as a scientist has put it, science is in its adolescence in Canada. He goes on to say that it will not reach maturity for another ten years. David Spurgeon in an article in the *Globe and Mail* of Saturday, March 19, pointed out