

SPECIAL SENATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE POLICY

Ottawa, Monday, February 9, 1970

The Special Committee on Science Policy met this day at 9.30 a.m.

Senator Maurice Lamontagne (*Chairman*) in the Chair.

The Chairman: Honourable senators, it is indeed a great pleasure for me as Chairman of this Special Committee of the Senate on Science Policy, on behalf of the members of that committee, to welcome our distinguished American guests this morning. Last May at their invitation we visited Washington and had informal discussions with them at which time, you will remember, we had the opportunity of meeting the President's top science advisers, including, of course, Dr. DuBridge. That visit was most useful to us.

Today we are particularly pleased that our distinguished guests were able to accept our invitation to come to Ottawa at this time. I very much regret, however, that Chairman Miller was not able to accompany and lead the delegation. I am told that he has a bad cold. I hope it is not too serious and I certainly hope he will be feeling better soon, because, when we were in Washington, we were able to observe that it was under his inspiring leadership that the Committee on Science and Astronautics was working so well. It was certainly partly due to that leadership that that committee acquired through its hearings and publications the very high international reputation it has as certainly the most qualified group of parliamentarians in the world on policy issues as raised by science and technology.

This high reputation of the committee is certainly also due to a large extent to Congressman Daddario. All of us here know him because we have read his numerous articles on the subject of science policy. He is, as you know, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Science Research and Development and has acquired on his own a very high international reputation as an expert on science policy matters.

We also know, sir, from having seen you in operation in Washington that you are firmly convinced that the complex problems raised by science and technology must be approached at the political level in a non-partisan way, and I am sure that Congressman Fulton shares your views at least on that question.

In addition to being an expert on foreign affairs Congressman Fulton has been keenly interested in issues of science policy for many years, and with his broad background he brings the vital contribution of the social sciences to bear on these questions.

We are also very pleased that Congressman Mosher and Congressman Symington who were also very active members of the Committee on Science and Astronautics have been able to accept our invitation and to participate in this series of meetings.

Since our visit to Washington at the beginning of May last year, our own committee concluded its scheduled program of public hearings at the end of June, 1969, and since the beginning of those public hearings we have received representations from more than 300 government agencies and private groups and individuals. We have accumulated more than 10,000 pages of evidence and we have received at least 200 specific recommendations as to changes to be made in our approach to science policy.

In the early fall we visited seven countries in Europe, including Sweden, West Germany, France, The Netherlands, Belgium, Great Britain and Switzerland, and we had most fruitful discussions with what were in our opinion the most qualified experts on science policy in western Europe. Since then we have also received a number of distinguished visitors. At the end of October we had a visit of Sir Solly Zuckerman. I am sure you know him. He is the chief science advisor of the British Government, and a few days later we had Sir Henry Melville, chairman of the British Scientific Advisory Council who was accompanied by Mr. Embling, deputy under-secretary to the Department of Education and Science. Then in November we had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. DuBridge and some of