

Council for the Encouragement of the Arts, Letters, Humanities
and Social Sciences; report of Cabinet Committee

1. The Secretary of State for External Affairs said the special Cabinet Committee which Cabinet, on October 6th, had asked to consider and report on the establishment of a Canada Council, had gone into the matter and prepared a recommendation, but felt that, before the Department of Justice was asked to draft legislation for the establishment of a Council, Cabinet might consider certain of the problems involved.

One of the main functions of a Council as suggested by the Massey Commission would be to devise and administer a system of awards and scholarships for students and scholars in the field of the arts, letters, humanities and social sciences. This gave rise to a constitutional problem because education was under exclusive provincial jurisdiction.

The Committee suggested that, notwithstanding the Commission's recommendations, the scholarship scheme to be administered by the Council be restricted to the post-graduate level, and that no provision be made in the legislation for the establishment of the University Training Advisory Council which had been suggested by the Commission. With regard to scholarships for foreign students, however, the Committee was of the view that these might be awarded at both the undergraduate and post-graduate levels.

The Committee had given considerable thought to the relative positions of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Secretary and Associate Secretary of the Council. The Massey Commission had recommended that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be full-time appointees. There were certain advantages to this but, on balance, the Committee thought it might be preferable, at least during the first few years of the Council's existence, to appoint the Chairman and Vice-Chairman on a part-time basis either with or without remuneration depending upon the individuals selected. Under such an arrangement the relative position of the Secretary and Associate Secretary or Director and Associate Director, whatever they may be called, would be greatly increased, and the Committee suggested that all four appointments be made by the Governor in Council.

It was suggested that the term of office of the Chairman be as determined by the Governor in Council but not in excess of five years and that he be eligible for re-appointment for a second term. The Vice-Chairman and other members of the Council, other than the Secretary and Associate Secretary, might be appointed for three-year terms and be eligible for re-appointment for a second term. The Secretary

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