[Text]

networks, bringing excellent researchers together and allowing the critical mass to accumulate; that something can be done that moves up to another notch in terms of, as I say these days, world class excellence.

Senator Haidasz: Is there still confusion, or dovetailing, or conflicting work between your council and the Canada Council; and do you have a good working relationship or cooperation?

Dr. Heintzman: I am happy to report that we have very good working relationships with all of the other councils. However, the various councils are remarkably different in their modes of operation, and that has to do with a variety of things. One aspect is the history of some of the institutions. They have evolved in different ways. The Medical Research Council, for example, evolved from a group of medical deans across the country and, as a result, the actual council is very actively involved in the decisions on funding in a way that the other granting councils are not. The other granting councils are trustees for a peer-review process which is carried out by someone else and not by the councils themselves.

In the case of our relations with the Canada Council, we have a definition problem which, in a sense, we also share with the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council makes no distinction as to the location of the researcher. It does not matter whether a researcher is or is not on a university campus; we consider them a researcher, we review their excellence and we fund them depending upon the decisions of our peer-review committees.

The Canada Council and the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council operate somewhat differently. The National Sciences and Engineering Research Council de facto—and I think de jure—also fund only university-based researchers. The Canada Council, by contrast, more de facto than de jure, does not fund any university-based researchers. So we have a situation where some persons, active in areas on university campuses which might seem to fall within the mandate of the Canada Council, cannot obtain funding from the Canada Council and turn to us for funding; but, in fact, their activities do not actually fall within our mandate and we are not able to fund them.

So, particularly in the fine arts area, there is a gap, as it were, between those two councils at the moment. We are discussing the matter with the fine arts community, and trying to resolve the issue—and we hope it will be resolved—but the different modes of operation of the council sometimes throw up those little hitches, which need to be worked out.

Senator Haidasz: Let us take, as an example, psychology. Is there any research that you are doing which is duplicated by the Medical Research Council?

Dr. Heintzman: No. In the psychology area we have a tricouncil mechanism that works very well. Our staff meet and, in both the fellowships and research grants area, where required, they sort out where an application should go or who should handle it. So there is no overlap in that sense. Sometimes there is vigorous discussion as to who, in fact, is the [Text]

appropriate council, but there is never a case where we are doing the same things.

Senator Haidasz: On page 5 of your presentation you say that your council had to make the hard decision to cancel seven of its programs to protect its core activities. Which seven programs did you have to cancel?

Dr. Heintzman: I am not sure that I can name them off my head. We cancelled several in the international area.

Mr. A.F. Fox, Senior Policy Analyst, Policy and Planning, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada: The programs were the special MA Fellowships; the Population Aging Program; grants for International Collaborative Research; and we have four bilateral exchange programs, with Japan, Hungary, China and France.

Senator Marsden: May I interrupt to say that the French are very annoyed by the cancellation of the programs. I have heard vigorous protests coming from the research centre in Paris.

Senator Haidasz: That's bad. Dr. Heintzman, could you send me some information about the Hungarian program that you had to cancel?

Dr. Heintzman: We will be delighted to do so.

Senator Haidasz: Did I understand you to say that you had cancelled programs with regard to visiting professors from abroad to lecture at Canadian universities; also those programs that help our Canadian professors to travel to conferences abroad? Have those been curtailed or cancelled?

Mr. Fox: Those programs were cancelled the year before. That was another round of cancellations.

Senator Haidasz: By your staff?

Mr. Fox: Because of our budgetary situation, yes.

Senator Haidasz: Who looks after Canadian representation at international conferences?

Dr. Heintzman: We have a program to fund representation at international conferences. The International Scholarly Conference is a program that we have actually devolved, through a block grant, through the universities themselves to administer. We also have a program which the council administers directly to fund people to attend the business meetings or executive meetings of International Scholarly organizations.

Senator Haidasz: No doubt the Secretary of State has nothing to do with that. I guess he is just informed that you have cancelled them. He does not have anything to say about it, does he?

Dr. Heintzman: No. It is an arm's length agency, and decides what are its priorities and what it can afford to do. Unfortunately, with great regret, given the funding situation which I described in my opening remarks, the council has found, over the last few years, that in order to maintain its core programs in any kind of shape—and even those are suf-