

Supply—Industry

anniversary of the founding of the council in 1916.

I am referring to the booklet for two reasons. First, I believe that we as members of this house should accept a greater responsibility than we have in the past for assisting the Canadian people to know and to understand the asset they have in the National Research Council which has been built up over the last 50 years and, second, I feel that in the urgency of approaching a solution to the growing pollution problem in Canada we should first take a look at the resources we have at hand which can be put to work in this field, and I hope to suggest that N.R.C. is indeed a very important agency which we could use in this connection. I will therefore quote from the publication to which I referred. On page 1 it reads:

The National Research Council of Canada is a link between the scientific interests of the government, industry and the universities of Canada and a patron of basic and applied science. The governing body of the council is drawn from leading members of the universities, industries and labour.
Research

N.R.C.'s ten laboratory divisions in Ottawa and two regional institutions, one in Halifax, and one in Saskatoon, comprise Canada's largest and most diversified laboratory complex.

Both pure and long-term applied research are carried out in these laboratories, as well as contract research on specific projects, standardization work, and testing for which no private or commercial facilities are available.

A little farther on, under the heading "Technical Information", it reads as follows:

N.R.C.'s technical information service provides, without cost, information and advice on technological matters to Canadian firms. Its industrial engineers give direct assistance and advice especially to small firms on improvement of their plant layout, efficiency of operating and good plant management. This service answers about 17,000 inquiries per year from Canadian industries.

It seems to me that this is a very short but effective summary of the work done by N.R.C. It also seems to me that N.R.C. is the kind of institution which was certainly uppermost in the minds of the numerous technically competent people and people from various federal and provincial government departments who attended the conference in Montreal. It is an institution which is in the position to serve the government, industry and universities in relation to research in the pollution field. I would therefore suggest that although there is no provision in these estimates for the kind of work suggested in the guidelines which arose from the conference on pollution, nevertheless now is the time to start preparing for consideration of next year's estimates in which

[Mr. Barnett.]

appropriate provision may have to be made for work in the field of pollution similar to what the N.R.C. is already doing in many other fields. We should expect to see a major expansion in the very limited work in this field that already comes within the responsibility of the National Research Council.

• (8:10 p.m.)

It is not my intention at this time to go into any detail as to the discussions to which I listened with regard to the amount of money that needs to be put into the battle against pollution. I might mention in passing that one of the spokesmen at the conference, in order to give us some idea of the scale on which the war against pollution should be fought, suggested that if we were to put into it something equivalent to the amount now appropriated for the national defences forces of Canada we would be thinking in terms of the kind of scale on which this problem should be attacked. What I particularly want to emphasize is that we should begin to think about taking active steps to commence this program.

One of the reasons I am taking the opportunity of emphasizing this matter on the discussion of the estimates of the National Research Council is that during my visit to the Montreal road establishment not too long ago one of the places we were taken to see was the division of building research. We had some discussion about the work of that division, about its relationship to the national building code of Canada and the kind of co-operation that existed between it and a body like Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in regard to the improvement of building standards throughout Canada.

During the week I was in Montreal the picture that built up in my mind in respect of the operations of the building research division and the national building code came back to me several times. Increasingly as I listened to the discussion it seemed to me that the most appropriate way to approach the idea of a national pollution standards code or whatever one might eventually decide to call it, for the practical implementation across the country of pollution control in a manner which would bring about co-operation between all levels of government in Canada was already established in an ideal pattern within the existing framework of the National Research Council.

I should like to make a brief reference to the work of the division of building research in relation to the national building code as outlined in the 1965-66 annual report of the