

**Dr. Schneider:** Up until this summer the Medical Research Council reported through the National Research Council, but has pretty well functioned as an independent body and had its own Parliamentary vote.

The Chairman of the Medical Research Council throughout this time has been a member also of our Council and we have had the closest relationship and liaison with respect to our programs and policies and so on.

Now, when you get to the area of let us say biological sciences which, of course, are of interest both to the medical profession and also to science generally, there is always going to be an area of overlap and this we have sorted out amongst ourselves. Researchers in universities can, of course, apply to both bodies if it is in the area which is normally supported by either of these Councils but by and large university professors who work, let us say, within a medical school would in the first instance apply to the Medical Research Council.

**Senator Sullivan:** Not the National Research Council?

**Dr. Schneider:** Not the National Research Council; some of them do, but then we discuss this and we consult with the applicant in order to iron this out.

There will be areas, you see, that are not normally covered by the Medical Research Council; let us take, for example, medical engineering, where work might be done in a university engineering school. In those cases they may apply both to us and to the Medical Research Council.

Now, of course, very often in this research group there is also additional work going on which is not necessarily medically oriented which we would support in the normal way, but in some cases the Medical Research Council, if they feel this is of special medical interest, might also consider his application, but this is done in mutual consultation.

**Senator Sullivan:** Thank you; on page 3 of your brief, Dr. Schneider, you say: "...because of the unpredictability of scientific discovery new scientific advances cannot be planned or centrally directed."

Well, who directs it if the National Research Council doesn't?

**Dr. Schneider:** Well, I think we are talking here about completely unoriented or curiosity-motivated research, not applied research.

In this case you cannot decide what a man is going to discover in advance; all you can do is assure yourself that this is a very competent investigator, that he has some good ideas and all you can do is then decide whether to support him or not, but you cannot direct his work.

Very often, of course, the most exciting discoveries, arise by chance from things in the course of a man's work; he started out to do something else but in the course of this work when he gets probing he hits on something else quite unpredictably.

So one cannot really plan this; he makes a proposal to us of what he plans to do and if this sounds like a good idea and he is a first rate researcher he will get support, but after that we pretty well have to leave it up to him and have confidence in him that something is going to come out of this.

**Senator Sullivan:** I was going to discuss industrial research, but I feel that has been covered very fully.

Now, the last question you can answer, and you need not, is: Is the Science Secretariat and Science Council necessary?

**Dr. Schneider:** Well, that is a very loaded question.

**Senator Sullivan:** Well, I will load it a little further: How was the decision re telescope arrived at and what roles, if any, did the above bodies play in it?

**Dr. Schneider:** Well, first of all, let me say as far as the Secretariat and Science Council is concerned I think everyone here probably knows the history of this, that this question was studied; this was a recommendation and it was finally a decision by government, so I am afraid this is something that is now here.

Their respective role I think, at least as far as the Science Council is concerned, is to be a purely advisory role.

I think there is probably a need to have a body that worries about very broad general directions and here, of course, this is a role that has been assigned to the Science Council.

Compared to this, the National Research Council, being an operating agency, has a responsibility to implement programs but, of course, this does not mean that we can operate in a policy vacuum. However, we have to develop policies with respect to our particular programs.

There is still a great deal of work after there is some broad policy direction as might