

*Science Council of Canada*

Council of Canada, as an independent advisory body with no operational responsibility, seems to offer the most effective solution.

In making this decision and offering the Science Council bill, the government has been greatly encouraged by the favourable response of professional scientific organizations in Canada. Among the societies commending the government on its proposed course are the Royal Society of Canada, the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers, the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, the Agricultural Institute of Canada, the National Conference of Canada Universities and Colleges, the Chemical Institute of Canada and the Engineering Institute of Canada. I am grateful for this response and for the offers of assistance from many of these organizations.

The Science Council, unlike the National Research Council, the Defence Research Board and other agencies and departments of government, will have no staff, no laboratories and no authority over expenditures other than the amounts allocated for the chairman and for expenses of members when attending meetings of the council.

• (8:00 p.m.)

By utilizing the services of committees, special panels, technical specialists, appropriate government agencies, and industrial, academic, professional and other groups the council will initiate studies in depth, assemble and analyze information, and obtain opinions that will serve as the basis for recommendations and planning. The position of the science council vis-à-vis operating agencies in government, industry and the universities, could perhaps be clarified by pointing out that the council will be concerned with policy and planning for science and technology in Canada, whereas the agencies' concern is with policy and planning in science and technology—two different kinds of activity.

In Canada, as in other countries, because the money provided by the central government represents much the largest component of the total amount spent on research and development, the balance of distribution of government funds among the government's own laboratories, industrial organizations, universities, and of allocation to particular areas of science and technology exerts a most important influence on the scope and character of the entire community of science and technology in the country. Unless careful thought is given beforehand it is all too easy to drift into a situation where there is an

uneven or unhealthy emphasis on one segment of science, or in one geographic area, or in one type of organization. Such an imbalance, once created, is almost impossible to correct. In this important matter the Science Council will be expected to develop principles that will assist the government in effective allocation of its resources.

As the success of any programs or plans that may be devised will inevitably depend upon there being available a sufficient number of intelligent and competent people, with adequate training and skill in science and technology, a prime objective of the Science Council will be to study the needs, the numbers and the training programs that will be required. It has been stated that in the United States some 35 per cent of all professionally trained scientists and engineers are engaged in research and development: the comparable figure for Canada is in the order of 15 per cent. This is but another measure of the relative importance attached to this sphere of enterprise at the present time, and another indication of the possible magnitude of growth in this country.

Our real objective must be, in the fields of science, in medicine, engineering, industry, the universities, to provide the exciting and challenging opportunities in the broad spectrum of science that will not only retain our best minds but induce many of those who have left to return, and thus reverse the outward flow of Canadian scientific and technical manpower.

In order that the people of Canada, and of other countries, may be kept informed of its findings, projections, and recommendations, the Science Council, upon the instruction of the minister to whom it reports, will publish statements, bulletins, and comprehensive reports. It is anticipated that this will provide the public with a factual basis on which to judge the prospect of science and technology and to make personal and corporate plans for the years ahead.

Although the council itself will have no staff, it is proposed that the science secretariat in the Privy Council office will have the responsibility of assembling and analysing information and preparing briefs and other studies for consideration by the council. The secretariat will provide professional and administrative assistance for the council, will prepare reports and undertake day to day services for the council that will ensure continuing and active relations with appropriate government agencies and with industrial,

[Mr. Drury.]