

however, the power is no longer in the department, but rather in the research council. If this can be done, there is no reason why the national harbours board or the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation could not be given power to set up crown companies. Amendments could be brought in authorizing such procedure by those organizations. This is going just one stage farther than up to this date the government has gone. These companies will be just one step farther removed from parliamentary control.

In the debate on the government companies operations bill I enumerated our objections to crown companies, and I do not intend to repeat those objections in detail to-day. I stated that crown companies are not subject to municipal, provincial or federal taxation; that they establish a super civil service which does not function under the Civil Service Act; that they will compete with private industry, and that they open the flood gates to socialism.

The minister admitted in the debate on an earlier occasion that the research council could do anything these companies will be able to do. That is recorded at page 2188 of *Hansard*, where we find this, in reply to my question:

Mr. Howe: Of course, but my hon. friend will remember that anything the companies could do, the national research council could do without the companies.

Mr. Green: I suggest to the minister that that is a very good reason why the national research council does not need to set up companies at all.

We suggest to the minister that if companies are required to carry out some of the functions of the research council, such companies should be set up by separate bills. If the minister wants a company to deal with patents, and other rights of that type, then let him bring a bill before the house, at which time he could explain the need for such company. All the powers and all the surrounding facts could be thoroughly considered by the house. I understood the minister to say this afternoon that the crown company to be set up to deal with patents would have to do not only with those owned by the research council but also with inventions made by the universities and other bodies doing research work. I may have been wrong in taking that meaning from what he said, but his words led me to believe that that is what he meant. It is another reason why the proposed companies should not be set up by the research council, but rather under statute of this parliament.

In conclusion may I repeat what I said in opening. We approve the main principle of this bill because we are strongly in favour of research being carried on to the utmost, but we reserve our right to oppose certain provisions of the bill as it is at present before the house.

Mr. A. M. NICHOLSON (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, the leader of this group made our position clear the other day when he spoke briefly to the resolution. I quote from page 1886 of *Hansard*:

Speaking briefly to this resolution, No. 14, may I point out that we welcome the proposals contained in it, and look forward to the introduction of the bill. We have long been of the opinion that an expansion of our scientific activities is essential at this time. As a matter of fact, what I fear is that people in public life—political leaders, and in some degree men in charge of our defence forces—are failing to exercise, in the matter of scientific progress, that degree of imagination the scientists themselves are exercising.

When we consider the contribution that scientific workers made during the war years I am sure all members of parliament will support any resolution that will enable Canada to play a more prominent part in the scientific progress of the future than we have in the past. Like the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan (Mr. Coldwell), I am fearful that we shall be unable to recruit in Canada or retain in Canada sufficient scientific personnel to cope with the problems before us.

This problem is not peculiar to Canada. I have been interested in reading "Endless Horizons", written by Vannevar Bush, in which he outlines some of the problems confronting the United States. He mentions that President Roosevelt wrote to him on November 17, 1944, requesting recommendations, in the following words:

(1) What can be done, consistent with military security, and with the prior approval of the military authorities, to make known to the world as soon as possible the contributions which have been made during our war effort to scientific knowledge?

(2) With particular reference to the war of science against disease, what can be done now to organize a programme for continuing in the future the work which has been done in medicine and related sciences?

(3) What can the government do now and in the future to aid research activities by public and private organizations?

While I do not go all the way with the writer of that book, I think some of his observations would apply to the Canadian scene. In the chapter entitled "War against Disease" he writes:

The death rate for all diseases in the army, including the overseas forces, was reduced from 14.1 per thousand in the last war to 0.6 per thousand in world war II.