

In his critical assessment of the American situation, which in this respect at least is very similar to Canadian conditions, William D. Carey, the former assistant director of the Bureau of the Budget in charge of science and technology, has this to say:

If our policies and strategies for science and technology are hard to fathom, perhaps it is because we are not well organized. Research and development are decentralized through the Federal Government, managed as a network held together loosely by the White House science office. There is no prime mover; the decision-making patterns are pluralistic. As an institutional process, science and technology are not responsive to standards of balance, purpose or priorities. The component elements serve as mission-related conduits for funding research, development, training and academic science; they do not function as a system, because there was not a system to begin with.¹⁸

A growing number of western countries, particularly in the 1960's have decided to develop an overall policy to complement, inspire, and control policies related to particular government missions. The Canadian government followed this trend by setting up the Science Secretariat in 1964 and the Science Council in 1966. But, as recently as 1969, Mr. Charles Drury, president of Treasury Board and chairman of the Privy Council Committee on Scientific and Industrial Research, recognized "the need for establishing an overall national science policy."¹⁹

It must be emphasized again that the role of an overall science policy, like that of a macro-economic policy, is not to replace specific policies but to support them with a basic framework, broad terms of reference, and criteria to assess their efficiency. At the inaugural meeting of the Science Council the Prime Minister defined the area of general science policy as covering "decisions that determine the balance of our national scientific effort; the role of that effort in relation to our country's aspirations; its adequacy as to research on the one hand and applied use on the other."²⁰

A general science policy includes a number of vital tasks:

- To maintain an integrated network for scientific and technological information on what is going on at home and abroad;
- To make sure that the national scientific establishment as a whole is adequate in the context of the international scientific and technological race;
- To provide a balanced supply of scientific manpower related to national requirements;
- To ensure proper balance—between scientific disciplines; between pure research, mission-oriented research, and development work; between the public sector, industry, and universities as performers of research;