

evaluate the crops resulting from our experiment. But I should like to suggest that perhaps your committee could also assess the importance of our scientific policy on, let us say, the location of laboratories attached to certain departments. I am thinking of Agriculture, the Defence Research Board and several others which have laboratories across Canada. These laboratories first provide an input for the local economy. When there are 1,000 persons working in one of these laboratories, the national economy is notably affected; in many cases, as we have just mentioned, the regional economy is greatly boosted as well.

In addition to a national effort towards the solution of the major problems confronting Canada, I feel that the country would benefit from a scientific policy—something the government also seems to desire—by which, referring to the scientific effort of a national laboratory, federal laboratories would deal with regional problems. In this way, I feel Canadian scientific efforts might be remarkably strengthened; if not, political disputes which could erupt in Canada might, in certain cases, destroy a major part of our scientific work, if this work were not already spread out across the country.

At present, in a number of instances, we might say that research is being carried out in Ottawa but not elsewhere.

I feel here that if we included certain guidelines in our development policy regarding the establishment of laboratories, an important step would be taken towards the strengthening and promotion of Canadian scientific achievement.

Senator Bourget: Have their not been efforts to decentralize research, to incorporate research into our Canadian university system as Dr. Schneider mentioned a little while ago? Has their not been a more marked effort to assist research in our French universities, for example? Have laboratories been specially established? Has more general financial assistance been given to French universities?

Professor Bonneau: I do not feel that we can reply in the affirmative to this question if we mean that the projects were financed because they emanated from French universities. We lately had a project in mathematics at the University of Montreal. The Council simply chose this department in the University of Montreal because it was considered one of the best in Canada and because the University of Montreal had a viable programme which could be developed.

My suggestion was not entirely along this line but concerns a level which, although national, would have regional implications, that is, would require an effort, as the Council has done, to recognize regional problems—for example, in Halifax and Saskatoon, the problems of fisheries and crops—where laboratories have important inputs. There is a way of doing the same thing for almost all the areas in Canada.

Senator Bourget: At the present time, do you have a programme for the area with which we are concerned?

Professor Bonneau: I should not like to venture any details today as the projects are still in the drafting state and many facts have yet to be accumulated; this cannot be done overnight; the area must welcome the project and bring it to a successful fruition and often this is an enormous problem.

[English]

The Chairman: I think that this is an appropriate time so to adjourn. I know some people have appointments, and they also have to eat. We will resume at 3.30 this afternoon.

The committee adjourned.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The Chairman: The meeting is open.

Senator Sullivan: Mr. Chairman, Dr. Schneider, my colleague from the University of Toronto, Dean Tupper, Dr. Bonneau—I know a few of them.

Senator Grosart asked a very pertinent question right at the conclusion of his remarks to you, Dr. Schneider, and before I come to that, it is a pointed question and may be a little difficult to answer, but as a medical man I am particularly interested in the relationship of the Medical Research Council today and the National Research Council.

Is there much medical research still being conducted by the National Research Council?

Dr. Schneider: First of all, as far as the relationship is concerned between the Medical Research Council and the National Research Council, as you know the Medical Research Council was formed, or set up by the National Research Council initially.

Senator Sullivan: Yes.