

Mr. PROBE: Is the minister also in accord with that as the function of this corporation, that there shall be no commercial manufacture at any stage of the work of the national research council so far as the Canadian people are concerned?

Mr. HOWE: Under this act it is not the intention to permit manufacture. It has never been the practice of the national research council to do manufacturing or development work beyond the preliminary stages, and there is no intention on my part to change that situation. My legal advisers believe that the amendment is wholly redundant, but there is no objection to it. If my hon. friend wishes to press it and the committee wishes to carry it, it will be quite all right with me.

Mr. PROBE: As I see this section, the Conservatives are quite consistent. They want to make sure that we undertake all the expense of the original research in the early stages. The cost can be cheerfully borne by the Canadian people as a whole in the early stages. Then when we come to the time that it is commercially feasible, after we have set up a pilot plant to show that the process is feasible, then they suggest that we turn it over to Messrs. Conservatives and Company—

Mr. MacNICOL: You mean you will sell it?

Mr. PROBE: —and let them exploit it. That is the history of their party as far back as you care to go.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Cheap.

Mr. JACKMAN: Just like Marquis wheat; it is the same idea—for the benefit of all Canadians.

Mr. PROBE: Provided that the grain exchange can handle Marquis wheat; provided that the friends of the hon. member for Rosedale can buy or otherwise.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): I would ask hon. members to confine their remarks to the section under discussion. It has nothing to do with wheat.

Mr. PROBE: The hon. member for Rosedale brought it up as an example, and I am quite insistent that I want to be clear with respect to both what our friends to the right see in this section and what the Minister of Reconstruction sees in it on behalf of the government.

Mr. JACKMAN: Perhaps you will not like him so much then.

Mr. PROBE: The hon. member for Rosedale and his confreres see in this section a definite step. Once the experimental expense has been undertaken and the product is feasible for manufacture they will take it over at their price. The minister has indicated that he is prepared in general to adopt the same idea. Am I right in that? I should like the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply to say whether or not he believes the crown should step out. Once the thing is proved to be commercially feasible? Is the government then going to step out after the expense has been undertaken, and turn the rest of the production over to private enterprise?

Mr. HOWE: I should not care to give a reply to that, but I would say that when the experimental work is finished it is no longer a matter for the research council. It has never been the practice of the research council to manufacture anything for sale, and I sincerely hope that that will always be the policy, because research is one thing and manufacturing is another.

Mr. PROBE: With that, of course, I am in accord so far as the research council is concerned, but I hope that the purport of this is not to stop necessarily a crown company of some other sort from carrying on with the commercial development—

Mr. JACKMAN: That is another matter.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): Is the committee ready for the question?

Amendment (Mr. Fleming) negatived.

Mr. FLEMING: The minister said he had no objection to it.

Mr. JAENICKE: With regard to the proposed new paragraph (i) of section 10 of the act, we of this group have some objection to it because it involves a great change in the previous act. The new section 11 replaces the old section 11 and omits the provisions covered by the new paragraph (i) of section 10. I should like to read the old section, which is as follows:

All discoveries, inventions and improvements in processes, apparatus, or machines, made by a member or any number of members of the technical staff of the council shall be vested in the council and shall be made available to the public under such conditions and payment of fees or royalties or otherwise as the council may determine, subject to the approval of the governor in council.

As I read this section it means that the crown would always obtain the patent rights in any inventions or discoveries made by the research council. I think we should retain that; but paragraph (i) of the new section 10 changes that and proposes that the council