

In general, the discussions on the whole question of Canadians' productivity were quite enlightening. Almost no one would argue that we are as productive as we should be. The causes of what people saw as a gradual decline in productivity were often seen to be related to the improvements in lifestyle which successive generations have enjoyed. Many volunteered that Canadians have become "a little too lazy," "don't give an honest day's work for an honest day's pay" and contrasted our situation with that of developing countries, where employees involved in the manufacture of goods which compete successfully against ours are content earning wages inferior by our standards but excellent by theirs.

A number of people, although a distinct minority, felt inclined to say that management inefficiency and nearsightedness was partly responsible for lagging productivity.

Vancouver participants, in a manner consistent with other recent research findings, were much more likely to point to union militancy as a major source of the productivity problem and hence the difficulties being experienced in the economy of British Columbia generally and in the trade sector in particular.

There was a broad but somewhat shallow consensus that a lot of money should be devoted to research and development. Most people seemed unaware of how much is currently spent, who spends it, on what types of research it is spent, or on what it should be spent in the future. This, while not surprising, is further evidence of what appears to be a underlying lack of concern about some of the very serious challenges which lie ahead.

In most instances, the group participants paid lip service to the need for "massive" changes in our economic structure or an "overhaul of our approach to the future" but stopped short of saying that major sacrifices on the part of Canadian workers could realistically be