

emphasis on interdisciplinary research and harmonize procedures. The alternatives offered have ranged from retention of the present system to a single granting council covering all disciplines. The Senate Committee's proposals had an attractive neatness, simplicity and symmetry, but they implied a disassociation of curiosity-oriented basic research from mission-oriented basic research and a rather strict disciplinary basis for the organization of the granting foundations.

84. The Government's position tends to be more flexible. While maintaining the fundamental criterion of excellence as a basis for supporting university research, the Government wants to encourage scientists to tackle problems that relate to national needs and objectives. Furthermore, it places much emphasis on the need for interdisciplinary research and will encourage universities to relax the disciplinary boundaries of former years. In summary, the Government, while not of course using grant assistance to support research directly related to departmental missions, favours a more flexible system with greater stress on relevancy to national needs. These needs are not limited to research results but also include the development of trained manpower, the maintenance of a regional balance in research work and the build up of excellence in fields of specific importance to Canada.

85. In order to implement this policy the Government has announced its intention to make certain structural changes in the granting system. These changes will be detailed in the legislation but, as Senators will be aware, the Government's intentions have already been made public in the Speech from the Throne, and in a number of Ministerial speeches.

86. It is intended that there shall be three granting councils; a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, which will be responsible for the social science and humanities support previously provided by the Canada Council, a Natural Sciences and Engineering