

Science Council of Canada

Under subsection (f), it shall be the duty of the council to assess:

The responsibilities of universities in furthering science and technology in Canada.

Could the minister tell us whether he has obtained the consent of the Quebec government or discussed the matter with that government? There are other universities in Quebec. The minister knows the Quebec mentality. Is it the duty of the council to assess the responsibilities of universities? Would the minister elaborate on this matter?

Mr. Drury: The clause under consideration entrusts the science council with the task of establishing the responsibilities of the government towards the universities. This does not mean that it will try to establish the responsibilities of the universities but rather those of the government towards the universities.

Mr. Allard: The minister knows very well that the government of the province of Quebec considers that it is its responsibility and not that of the federal government to determine the functions of those universities in every field.

Mr. Drury: I have just explained to the hon. member for Sherbrooke that we are not denying the responsibilities and the functions of the universities. The council will study the responsibilities, if any, of the government of Canada toward the universities.

Mr. Allard: In Quebec?

Mr. Drury: At the present time, the National Research Council of Canada allocates sums of money for research purposes to individuals in Quebec universities. I hope that the National Research Council will keep on making research grants to scientists in any Canadian university.

Mr. Allard: That is centralization.

[*English*]

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Chairman, I think it would be appropriate during our consideration of this clause to ask the minister whether he can comment on or answer a question I asked during the debate on second reading as to the relationship between the Science Council and the Council of Resource Ministers. I do not wish to re-arouse any discussion on this question vis-à-vis Quebec, but have there been any discussions as to the relationship between the Science Council and

provincial agencies, such as the B.C. Research Council which was set up under the auspices of the government of British Columbia?

• (9:40 p.m.)

I note that in paragraph (h) reference is made to "developing and maintaining co-operation and the exchange of information between the council and other public or private organizations." Perhaps I might pinpoint my question by asking the minister whether in his understanding "other public organizations" could, if it was the desire of the provincial governments, embrace provincial governments or agencies as far as the terms of reference regarding the activities of the council are concerned.

Mr. Drury: Mr. Chairman, in response to the first question, namely the relationship between the Science Council and the Council of Resource Ministers, there is no plan for a formal link. The Council of Resource Ministers is a policy-making body in a special sphere. The Science Council will be a policy-evolving or policy-developing body in a larger sphere. Obviously I would expect that the Science Council would look to the Council of Resource Ministers for specialized advice, and that the Council of Resource Ministers might well look to the Science Council for general advice on larger targets. A precise relationship has not been worked out.

I have taken note of the interest of the hon. gentleman and will see whether consideration can be given to his suggestion. In relation to the second question, namely whether the Research Council of British Columbia is included in the phrase "other organizations", I think the answer is yes, the Science Council will seek the kind of information and advice it needs to render intelligent opinions wherever it can best be obtained, and reciprocally, if the Science Council of Canada can render valid advice and opinions I would expect the Research Council of British Columbia to seek advice and opinions from the Science Council. But it is not anticipated that there will be any role of a regulatory character or any control exercised by the Science Council of Canada over the British Columbia Research Council or indeed any other research council.

Mr. Barnett: I thank the minister for his answer. I think the minister would agree with me that, while the Council of Resource Ministers may be concerned with a limited area of activity, it is in a sense the first