

*Science Council of Canada*

of country they want to see Canada become; whether it is to be a country just passing out a little bit to every scientist who comes along and spreading the gratuities all over, whether there is to be an emphasis on quality and whether some direction will be given to the Science Council to see that whatever Canada embarks upon, whichever courses of action are decided upon as being most advisable and which sciences shall be supported, those sciences are supported with funds which are adequate to ensure that only the highest quality work will be done in this country.

I think we would be far better off to do fewer things in Canada and do them extremely well than to try to imitate our neighbour to the south, the countries of Europe or any other country in regard to science policy. We have special problems in Canada; we have a relatively small population with a special geography. Some direction from the government in this regard would prove of great importance to the work of the Science Council.

I hope that I read the terms of reference correctly and there will be a minister of the crown who will answer to the house for the Science Council, so this house can question him on its work and he can bring before the house matters of direction that the council will require. If this is done, the house will have an opportunity of expressing an opinion. I should like to close my remarks by quoting from an article by Dr. J. Gordon Parr, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science, University of Windsor, in which he says:

It is not, however, too early to appreciate that direction—guidance, if you prefer it—is lacking.

He was referring to the scientific secretariat.

In what areas is industrial development most promising? In what subjects should we rely upon imported technology? In what products do we have a peculiarly Canadian advantage? To what extent should universities be expected and encouraged to contribute to a national effort?

I hope this council will solve some of these problems for the Canadian people.

**Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, as my colleague the hon. member for Waterloo South (Mr. Saltsman) has said, I take it that all members of the New Democratic Party welcome the introduction of this legislation. Even being as pessimistic about it as one can be, I would be inclined to say that it is certainly worth a try. In other words, it would appear obvious to me that something needs to be done to co-ordinate and indeed to

tabulate what is or is not being done in the various fields of research in Canada. Certainly some steps need to be taken to ensure that there is not unnecessary overlapping of effort and that there is some planning for the proper allocation of the trained personnel we have available.

My purpose in rising to take part in the discussion on this bill is to suggest that my contention that the idea of a Science Council is certainly worth a try has been borne out, as far as I am concerned, as a result of some efforts I have been making in recent months to arrive at a picture in my own mind as to what is or is not being done in a particular field of research, namely the matter of the control of pollution of our air, water and soil.

I have found it very difficult to really get any picture in my mind and have come to the conclusion that possibly no one in Canada has a complete picture of what is being done in this field, or what is really required to be done. If the establishment of a Science Council can do something to correct the situation in this particular field of research, even apart from any other very necessary fields of research that are required in our modern society. I for one am willing to support the idea embodied in this bill and hope that the council when established will, among other things, give us an assessment of the requirements and priorities in the field of research and action in the development of the control of pollution.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, by way of illustrating what I feel should be the function of this bill I shall pretty well confine my remarks on it to this particular aspect of research, in the hope that it will serve to commend the bill to the house and also focus the attention of the house and of the Science Council of Canada, when it is established, on the high priority as far as this particular field of research is concerned.

• (8:40 p.m.)

A number of rather interesting articles have appeared recently in various publications in this connection. A series of articles was published in the Vancouver *Sun* a year or so ago, written by their reporter in this field, Mr. Arnie Myers. I believe this was a very commendable effort in expanding our knowledge as citizens of the problem, and of setting out some of the limitations on what is being done at the present time. I am glad to notice that in recent months the Toronto *Globe and Mail* has also been publishing a number of quite interesting articles in this