

(h) One argument in favour of proceeding without delay with the establishment of the Canadian Council was the fact that, because of the availability of financial assistance in the field of natural sciences and the lack of such assistance in the field of the letters, humanities and the social sciences, more and more promising Canadian students were being diverted into scientific studies. If this trend continued there might, in years to come, be a serious shortage of economists, humanists, etc., in Canada. It was important in the national interest to correct this state of affairs as quickly and effectively as possible.

(i) It had been suggested from time to time that, if and when the Council were established, it should take over the Youth Training Programme administered by the Department of Labour. This programme, however, was aimed exclusively at the under-graduate level. In the circumstances, the wisest course of action might be to establish the Council on the understanding that it would not, during the first few years at least, disturb any of the existing schemes for educational assistance such as the University Grants, the Youth Training Programme of the Department of Labour and the educational assistance provided by the Department of National Defence for members of the Armed Forces. At some future time, when the Council was well established, consideration might again be given to the desirability of transferring some or all of these other activities to it.

(j) If and when a bill to establish a Canadian Council for the Arts were introduced in Parliament, it might be referred for consideration to a special committee of Parliament on the understanding that ample opportunity would be given to interested groups to make representations, and that the government would not attempt to have the legislation passed until the next ensuing session. A second alternative would be to introduce the bill as a government measure and have it passed as quickly as possible without reference to any committee. On balance, the second course of action appeared to be preferable.

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