

*Government Orders*

background of the next few remarks that I am going to make.

Mr. Gaffield said that when the Canada Council was first formed in the late 1950s research activity in Canada was quite limited. Many Canadians had to seek advanced training in the United States or Europe and especially England.

Through the 1960s and the 1970s Canada developed research in all fields, including the humanities and social sciences. New graduate programs and new research projects were established. The result was two-fold: fewer and fewer Canadians were forced to go elsewhere for training and more research became available about the Canadian experience.

Instead of foreign trained experts applying research findings from other countries to us, scholars could use Canadian research to address, through specially dedicated Canadian studies, the important questions of concern to Canadians and incidentally to many other parts of the world. It could also look at our own growth and development in a variety of social and humanities disciplines, and, at the same time, serve the international community?

Something an awful lot of us do not appreciate is the very interesting and intricate work that is done by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. For those who have a direct interest, those of us who are here doing business in committee, are well aware of the role of the estimates. In part III of the expenditure plan there is a very well documented and thoroughly outlined program of analysis of each of the departments and all of the studies that have been undertaken by the council itself.

I thought I would give you some sense of the incredibly fine work that is done on joint ventures and individually by this particular body in the interests of Canada and in the interests of the world.

My colleague, Chaviva Hosek, and I were discussing the new historical atlas that is coming out. It is really quite exciting. It is a history of the geography of Canada and it is being done out of the grants department of the social humanities. It has set a standard that is so high and the quality is so fine that scholars from around the world are looking at this historical atlas and are planning to use it as a learning model for their own country and use the

technology that we developed in order to put this very exciting historical atlas into effect.

This helps us to find out about ourselves. Because of the content and because of its quality and because of its analytical approach it is a model to the world. I think that is something to be very proud of.

The other areas in which I thought the work of the council was quite fascinating were the priority areas where it supports research in areas that encompass five themes, four infrastructure development programs and joint initiatives and it has partnerships in interdisciplinary work.

I went from the very beginning of this and read through it with a great deal of interest. I really would encourage people to call my office and get a copy of this because it is really quite exciting to see the dynamism of the work that is done by these councils in the interest of Canada and in the interest of the international world.

• (1340 )

It has set up management of technological change. Under the Research Council, which matches private sector contributions, two research chairs were approved and six new chairs were established in 1991-92. It is stimulating research in the areas that are very important to this government's priorities and new prosperity agenda.

The fields are research into technology and international competitiveness, environmental technology in resource based industries, management of technological changes in financial services—that is important—joint scholarships with NSERC and SSHRC, master scholarships on science policy to help direct and oversee new fields of science, new areas of training and the development of chairs in the field of environmental studies, eco-research programs, doctoral fellowships, university chairs, research grants, addressing regional ecosystem problems in an interdisciplinary perspective.

I would say that when we look at the joint funding, work put together by NSERC and by SSHRC, we see the importance of this kind of work in the interest of Canada's prosperity agenda, the global changes in the ecosystems, the policies for aboriginal peoples, policies of joint research with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, policies on aboriginal economic development, models for Indian governments in