

the reports given to the Canadian Department of External Affairs.

Moreover, the Commission participates, in a general way, in the biannual meetings in the following way: it suggests the names of persons who could eventually be chosen to make up the Canadian delegation. In the final analysis, the Department itself appoints the members of the delegation.

During the year, the National Canadian Commission for UNESCO keeps a close watch on anything done by UNESCO in Paris or other places. It also gives advice concerning an adequate Canadian participation, that is to say, if UNESCO plans a meeting of physicists, the National Canadian Commission for UNESCO will tell the competent bodies to send representatives. The same thing occurs on other areas.

Finally, in Canada, the National Canadian Commission for UNESCO publicizes the work of UNESCO i.e. the main projects to which UNESCO is dedicated. The Commission also deals with a certain number of things such as the distribution of the mail, the publication of UNESCO and certain projects concerning the schools.

I am not sure if I have given an adequate answer.

Senator Desruisseaux: Thank you, Mr. Leblanc.

[English]

Senator Grosart: Mr. Leblanc, did I understand you to say that the committee of the Canada Council nominates UNESCO delegates from Canada?

Mr. Leblanc: No, this is the Department of External Affairs, but the National Commission for UNESCO would make recommendations on people who may be invited to join the delegation.

The Chairman: Recommendations which are not always accepted.

Mr. Leblanc: They are not always accepted.

Senator Grosart: Thank you.

Senator Thompson: Mr. Boucher, I notice in your preliminary remarks, in your statement, that you suggest an emergency in our race against the clock in connection with obtaining research background and so on. Then on page 2 there is an inference where you

suggest that in the United States the social sciences research budget of the federal government, although still comparatively modest, has been increasing 30 per cent faster annually, and in Canada it has been about twelve fold in growth. I would suggest that when you think of race riots and other things in the States one might perhaps wonder, as a sceptic, whether their grasp of knowledge is helping to achieve a better society or not.

I would say that I myself believe very much in the work of the Canada Council, but apart from your independence to some extent from public funds, you are really asking for public funds. I appreciate the problem Dr. Corry raised, that many of these ways of improving the quality of life are long-term, yet are you now in a position to show how this is developing the quality of our country? Can you now look back to the effect of your policies in certain areas and say, "If we had not moved there would have been stagnation in that area," or do you have to wait a few years and then perhaps you can say this? When public funds are being used the public likes to see, for example, the ballet and various other intangible projects which are to be encouraged. Are they giving a high quality to our society? I think there are sceptics in Canada about the Canada Council. What is the way in which you make your case to the public?

Mr. Boucher: I do not suppose we are being asked to comment at the moment on the value of our support to the creative and performing arts, but rather on the value of our support to the social sciences and humanities. I think it would be only fair for us to have a little respite before passing judgment on achievements, since we have not been in business for more than two or three years and a good many of the projects we have been supporting are not yet completed. The only thing we can fall back on is really the relativity between whatever support is available for the social sciences and the humanities and what is available for the natural sciences.

Without making any invidious comparisons, I think it is fair to say that support for the social sciences will be subjected to more suspicious scrutiny than support for the natural sciences. This is easily understandable, because the natural sciences deal with mysterious things and the public has no clear