

set out the purpose of the amendments to the Research Council Act. The intention is to strengthen the top structure of the national research council in order to enable it to carry out its greatly enlarged responsibilities, arising from its growth during the war years.

In the discussion on the resolution it was suggested by hon. gentlemen opposite that the national research council had little revenue other than that voted to it by this parliament. I would point out that in the six years ended April 1 last, the revenue of the research council in payment of services rendered by the council amounted to \$4,360,997.13, in addition to which funds were provided by other government departments to pay for work on their problems in the amount of \$6,632,122. In addition, the council received the following sums during that period: contributions to the Sir Frederick Banting fund of \$1,346,386.66, and in addition a return of \$363,496.56 for work performed at the cost of that fund. An amount of \$1,900,000 was received from Research Enterprises Limited in payment for development work carried out by the council on radar. This amount was turned back to the consolidated revenue and not accepted by the national research council. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it will be appreciated by hon. members that the work of the national research council involves the expenditures of great sums of money partly voted by parliament and partly earned by the research council itself.

It will perhaps be of interest to hon. members if I run over the purpose of the several amendments proposed.

The amendments to section 4 provide for the appointment of two vice-presidents and for an increase in the size of the honorary council in order that the vice-presidents may sit on the council and also that the various scientific interests covered by the scope of council activities may be represented. Provision is also made for an executive committee with the normal functions.

The amendment to section 2 defines the term "vice-president", and amendments to sections 5 and 8(a) detail the functions of the vice-presidents, the necessary provision for fixing salaries by order in council, and also defining the powers of the executive.

Section 3 makes formal provision for the privy council committee on industrial and scientific research. This committee has functioned since the Research Council Act came into being, but its existence has never been formalized by an act. As it is desired to have the proposed atomic energy board report to cabinet through this same committee, it is

necessary to have this committee formalized in the Research Council Act in order that it may be so referred to in other legislation.

The amendment to section 10 merely details certain additional powers of the council in connection with establishing pilot plants and the handling of licensing and patents. There is nothing particularly new in this, but it was thought wise to set down these functions which have already been carried on by the council in the past under the general authority act but which may become more extensive in the future.

Section 14 is a new section which gives the council power to set up corporations to carry on activities that cannot now be easily looked after as part of the general administrative work of the council. For instance, as an incident of the normal work of the council, many inventions arise which must be covered by patents. During war time, most of the inventions were secret and have not been formally patented, but it is certain that during the next few years there will be many patents arising in connection with the council's work on atomic energy developments and the whole range of industrial research. These patents should be exploited in the public interest, but it has been found that the normal set-up of the scientific organization is not suitable for such work. After a great deal of study the council recommended that a corporation similar to the Research Corporation of America be set up. The corporation should be a non-profit organization equipped to receive patents from the research council, other government departments, and any scientific organization, such as universities and public institutions which desire to make use of its facilities.

The Research Corporation of America has served the public welfare in an eminently satisfactory manner, and it is proposed that the Canadian corporation shall function in a similar way. After considering carefully the recommendations of the council, I came to the conclusion that the most satisfactory way of setting up such a corporation would be to have the Research Council Act amended, as proposed, which gives the research council the right to set up and control such a corporation.

It was also recognized that there may be many cases in which an idea originating in one of the council's laboratories would be of no great value until it had been tested out in a pilot plant, yet, after such development, might be very valuable to the country as a whole. The present amendment will give the council adequate facilities in such cases