

National Research Council

universities, and I do not believe there are better universities anywhere in the world. It is just too bad that so many of the graduates have found it necessary to go away.

The other day I was very interested to read the report of a speech delivered by Dr. L. G. Cook of Chalk River. It so happens that when the atomic energy committee visited Chalk River the members of that committee met most of these leading scientists, and during that visit I had a chat with Dr. Cook. I had been inspired by the attitude of these men at Chalk River. They were keen about what they were doing, and no one was keener than Dr. Cook. I remember saying to him, "It is a grand thing that you young men are doing this job for Canada; I am glad that you are staying here, even though you might be able to get a higher salary if you went to the United States." I remember so clearly his reaction; it was immediate. Referring to the work he was doing, he said, "Oh, this is so exciting." When Dr. Cook made this speech in Ottawa, I think it was before the Rotary club a week or two ago, he made a challenging speech. I suggest it would be worth while for the members of the government and the private members of the house to read that speech because I think he was talking common sense. If his plan is followed, it will mean a great deal to the future of Canada.

I should like to say also, and I think all members of the house will agree with me, that the universities of this country are making a great contribution towards scientific development, as well as in the field of research. They deserve the commendation of the members of this house for the work they are doing. There is so much that one might say, but time is limited tonight. Several other members wish to speak, so I conclude by expressing the hope that this new committee will be able to make a worth-while contribution to the development of Canada, and personally I greatly appreciate the opportunity of serving on the committee.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggarr): I am not going to prolong the discussion, because I think all of us are anxious to see this committee set up. I do want to join however the member for Vancouver-Quadra (Mr. Green) in expressing appreciation of the setting up of this committee. For a number of years I have felt that the research council, as well as several of our other public organizations like the national film board, should be given an opportunity of appearing before a parliamentary committee to inform the members of the work they are doing. Through the members of parliament, the country

would be given some indication of the valuable contribution these organizations are making.

Very few of us in this house, even those who have been here a number of years, know much about the research council. I remember driving along Sussex street a few years ago, seeing this old mill which was turned into a research facility for the national research council, and wondering what was coming out of a place of that sort. Suddenly during the war we saw on the Montreal road some fine buildings being erected surrounded by barbed wire, obviously under measures of security. We learned afterwards that they were for the national research council. During the war some of us had the opportunity of seeing some of the things the council was doing, such as research on synthetic rubber, and the pilot plants that were erected on Sussex street to see whether it could be obtained from milkweed and other products. This was at a time when rubber was exceedingly scarce.

A number of valuable contributions have been made both in war and in peace by this organization. Canadian industry has benefited from it. I would of course have preferred to see some crown companies established to utilize some of the fine discoveries for the public of Canada. I quite agree with the member for Vancouver-Quadra that we should be developing our resources primarily for Canada, but I want to stress the point that we should develop them for the Canadian people as a whole, and not for a few.

Mr. Green: We agree with that.

Mr. Coldwell: I am not going into that matter tonight, but I also want to join the hon. member in expressing appreciation of the work done in our universities, and to express regret that so many of our young scientists who have been trained, both in the national research council and in our universities, have to seek employment where salaries are more attractive and facilities are better. I think that is something that we must regret. Not only do these organizations need commendation; they need salaries and allowances later on that will enable them to do the kind of work and perform the services from which Canada can benefit.

I do not want to delay the setting up of this committee, but I want to say also that I am pleased with what the minister said tonight. He gave us a fine if brief outline of the work of this council. I am quite sure that the committee will receive valuable information, and will understand the work of the research council at last—I was going to say "better", but I shall say at last. Then