

Another fundamental reason, very often, is that engineering requires much more money and this poses a basic problem from the economic point of view at present for certain companies. There is a need, in Canada, to conduct research on transportation, but don't try to undertake valid projects on transportation in a university laboratory; this does not mean that university professors are not qualified to conduct such studies, but they require much more team work, the building of a prototype which is extremely cumbersome. At the present time, this work is not really within the scope of the universities.

Senator Bourget: Just a word, Mr. Chairman. I feel it is an extremely interesting question—not just because I raised it—but because Dr. Bonneau said that it was almost a tragedy. Indeed, I believe it is a tragedy that there is this kind of apathy on the part of industry, as we discussed this morning. I do not know why this is. I wonder if there is enough contact between the research branch, or the National Research Council, the universities and industry. Do discussions take place? Are there meetings? Do we want to interest industry as I believe businessmen are interested in development as Dr. Bonneau mentioned this morning—and he quoted two examples. It seems to me that Canadian industry should have eagerly grasped at the opportunity. I wonder why this apathy exists? It is perhaps not up to you to answer this question for me but I feel that there is perhaps some lack of liaison, or is it because industries feel they are not adequately assisted financially? Or is it because research is concentrated in the area of pure research and not enough in the field of applied research? This leads me to another point that, according to what I read in the Glassco Commission report, of the 21 members—please note that I do not wish to criticize any member of the National Research Council—but of the 21 members of the Council, only three are from industry, according to what I read, and there is not a single economist. I wonder whether it would not be appropriate to make a few changes in this respect? I believe that Dr. Schneider is proposing himself to make changes in this regard. Now the reason I am asking these questions is because, returning to the words of Dr. Bonneau, it is a tragedy that not enough importance is being given to research and I wonder what is being done to assist our home industries.

[English]

—A short recess.

(Upon resuming)

The Chairman: Honourable senators, we still have about three quarters of an hour before dinner and I am sure that there are still a lot of questions, so we may have to think whether or not we shall continue to sit this evening, or whether we should invite the Council at another date to come back before us.

I don't want to make any proposal at this time, but I want you to think about this when you select your questions during the next three quarters of an hour. Senator MacKenzie.

Senator MacKenzie: I just wanted to make a comment, Mr. Chairman, because the Atlantic provinces have been mentioned in terms of research or lack of research that is being done in that area.

Now, I happen to know something about three of the provinces, in particular, Nova Scotia where I have been Chairman of their University Grants Committee for the past six years, and New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and the fact of the matter is that they have not got enough money in the revenues of their provinces to compete in any effective way.

The Chairman: Like the British Columbia universities.

Senator MacKenzie: Well, they are a little different in British Columbia; I can give you a song and dance about that, but those in the Atlantic provinces—

There has been a good deal of cooperation, rationalization, or whatever you like in the Atlantic provinces and in Nova Scotia I know that practically all of the professional school work and the high level research and graduate work that is at the Ph.D level is concentrated in one institution and something of the same is done in New Brunswick at the University of New Brunswick, though the University of Moncton I know has a program.

The Chairman: Well, I am sure, Senator Mackenzie, that when we come to the third phase of our inquiry we will hear from universities.

Senator MacKenzie: But I just wanted to throw that in at this point, sir; I don't want to elaborate on it. That is a fact.