

schemes in the light of the current scientific and technological manpower situation and of the likely requirements . . . in the 1970s."²⁸ This proposal was also strongly supported in briefs we received. They pointed out that the re-appraisal should be done periodically in collaboration with "the appropriate professional organizations" and in the light of "relevance of national goals." We agree with these suggestions. In addition, we propose that in future these periodic re-appraisals be initiated by the Science Council and reviewed by MOSST in the exercise of its budgetary role and from its key position in the new central machinery for science policy.

Not only is it necessary to do whatever is possible to ensure an adequate and balanced supply of scientific engineering manpower in the future but we must also try to develop policies encouraging its greater mobility. The Committee therefore proposed that MOSST initiate a program in collaboration with the Public Service Commission and Treasury Board "to facilitate the mobility of R&D personnel within the government and between universities, industry and public agencies, with special emphasis on transfers from government to industry."²⁹ This recommendation too received strong support. One brief stated: "This is a most important proposal which could contribute considerably to the building of understanding between all sectors."³⁰ Another indicated that mobility would take care of itself, while an association warned that the difficulties in achieving it may have been underestimated.

We are inclined to accept the last point of view. There are obvious impediments to mobility which do not need to be enumerated here. People in general do not like to move and yet mobility presents great advantages not only for individuals but also for the collectivity. Remaining in the same job or environment for years may develop feelings of security but it also almost inevitably leads to a reduced sense of motivation and renewal. The chance to start another career can mean a new lease on life for the individual and new blood for the institution that would otherwise become paralyzed by the routine of an aging bureaucracy. It will take ingenuity and imagination to achieve greater mobility, but manpower transfers will ensure a more dynamic and creative scientific and engineering community in Canada.

STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES FOR BASIC RESEARCH

Six of our recommendations dealt with strategies and priorities for basic research. The first proposed "a strategy emphasizing quality rather than quantity."³¹ A few briefs rejected this suggestion, fearing, for example, it would lead to "overcontrol of curiosity-oriented science."³² However, the great majority accepted it, even if with some reservations.