

the effect of government policy on the scientific activities of the country at large and to advise on the actions necessary to maintain the universities and independent research institutes in a healthy condition. The Panel, on the other hand, being composed of senior government officials, is the appropriate body to consider government policy affecting departmental activities and to advise the Committee on government action. The President of the National Research Council, as chairman of both bodies, provides for co-ordination and the proper division of responsibilities.

On Apr. 30, 1964, the Federal Government announced that a Scientific Secretariat would be established shortly to assemble and analyse information about the government's scientific programs and their inter-relation with other scientific activities throughout Canada. This organization, which will be a small fact-finding and analytical group serving in a staff capacity without executive authority, will be established as part of the Privy Council Office. Its function is to provide day-to-day support in the work of the Privy Council Committee.

Section 1.—The National Research Council*

History and Organization.—Organized research in Canada on a national basis dates from 1916 when the Government of Canada established the Honorary Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research—now known by the short title "National Research Council". The early Council provided for the planning and integration of research work, organization of co-operative studies, postgraduate training of research workers, and prosecution of research through grants to university professors. This promotion and encouragement of research formed the basis of the Council's work from 1916 to 1924.

The creation of a central research institute, to carry on research in pure science in relation to standards of measurement, quality and composition of material, and in science applied to the industries of Canada, had been urged as early as 1918. A special committee of Parliament endorsed the proposal and in 1924 the Research Council Act was revised to include national research laboratories. Temporary quarters were secured and research on magnesian refractories for steel furnaces was carried out so successfully that a wartime industry, established during World War I, was re-established on a large scale. As a result of this achievement, the Government, in 1929-30, provided funds for new research facilities.

The National Research Building on Sussex Drive, Ottawa, was opened in 1932 and in 1939 construction was begun of an aerodynamics building on a 130-acre site on the Montreal Road, just east of the city. This site now comprises some 400 acres and houses most of the Council's laboratories. A Prairie Regional Laboratory built on the campus of the University of Saskatchewan has been in operation since June 1948, and an Atlantic Regional Laboratory on the campus of Dalhousie University in Halifax, N.S., was opened in June 1952.

Under the terms of the Research Council Act, the National Research Council has charge of all matters affecting scientific and industrial research in Canada that may be assigned to it by the Committee of the Privy Council on Scientific and Industrial Research. In discharging these responsibilities, the Council may undertake, assist or promote research. Its duties include the utilization of Canada's natural resources; the improvement of industrial processes and methods; the discovery of processes and methods likely to expand existing industries or to develop new ones; the utilization of industrial wastes; investigation and determination of physical standards, methods of measurement, and fundamental properties of matter; the standardization and certification of scientific and technical apparatus used by government and industry; the determination of standards of quality for materials used in public works and government supplies; investigation and standardization, at the request of industry, of industrial materials or products; and research intended to improve conditions in agriculture. The Council also has the duty of advising the Privy

* Prepared by R. A. Lay, Public Relations Office, National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa.