

The Council also has commissioned specialists in their respective fields to undertake studies for conferences on various subjects. These include the National Conference on Labour-Management Relations held in Ottawa in November 1964, the Conference on Productivity Through New Technology in Toronto in May 1965, the Conference on Stabilization in London, Ont., in the late summer of 1965, and the Conference on International Trade and Canadian Agriculture in Banff, Alta., in January 1966. Papers from these conferences, as well as other staff and special studies for the Council, have been published and are available from the Queen's Printer, Ottawa. In addition, the Council has published a special report on incentives for industrial research and development, prepared by its Advisory Committee on Industrial Research and Technology.

Section 7.—The Atlantic Development Board

The persistence of the problems of slow growth and low income in the Atlantic region compared with the remainder of Canada has long been of concern to the Federal Government as well as to the governments of the Atlantic Provinces. Policies and programs introduced over the years in an effort to better economic conditions were not entirely successful for various reasons and recently it became imperative that new solutions should be sought and the traditional patterns of economic activity in this area modified. Among the changed approaches was the establishment by the Federal Government of the Atlantic Development Board in 1962 (SC 1962-63, c. 10, as amended by SC 1963, c. 5).

The Board incorporates three essential principles in regional economic development: joint and closely co-ordinated development of programs with the governments of the Atlantic Provinces; a concern with the basic structure of the regional economy and with problem causes rather than symptoms; and, where otherwise not available, federal financial assistance for development projects.

The Board is a special agency, distinct from the regular machinery of government. Its eleven members are appointed for fixed periods from all the Atlantic Provinces and from diverse fields of activity. It thus has the knowledge, the interest and the freedom to pioneer regional development. Headquarters of the Board are in Ottawa and the staff consists of 37 persons of whom about half are professional. The staff is organized into two functional Divisions—the Program Division is concerned with all aspects of Board projects including economic and engineering investigations and the carrying out of the projects themselves; the Planning Division is responsible for, in consultation with the Economic Council of Canada, the preparation of a co-ordinated plan for the promotion of the growth of the Atlantic region. For obvious reasons, the staff works very closely with officials of other departments and agencies. Each province has a regional committee which works with the Board staff on matters relating to that particular province. When projects are approved, the appropriate department or agency is requested to supervise the work and arrange administrative details on the Board's behalf. Ministers or officials from each of the four provincial governments are designated to act as liaison officers with the Board.

Very broadly, the Board's functions are to prepare a co-ordinated plan for the promotion of the economic growth of the Atlantic region and to recommend programs and projects to cope with or mitigate current problems. In carrying out these functions, the Board is acutely conscious of the interdependence of short-run and long-run policies and the need for consistency among them. Economic growth and development, particularly when based on increased industrial activity, require substantial investment in capital facilities for power, transportation, pure water for industrial purposes, and other services. These facilities, commonly referred to as 'infrastructure', are of basic importance and, for this reason, major emphasis has been placed on this type of investment. Since the construction of such facilities could not be financed by the Atlantic Provinces themselves at this time and on the necessary scale, the Federal Government, in July 1963, established a \$100,000,000 Atlantic Development Fund which, along with annual appropriations, will enable the Board to carry out its functions.