

HALTON M.P. WOULD PROMOTE GOVERNMENT AID FOR RESEARCH

On Monday, April 6th, Halton's federal member of parliament, Sandy Best, made a lengthy speech in parliament in which he urged formation of a government committee to study organization of scientific research and pointed out the need for increased government aid in the research field.

Text of his speech is continued from last week's edition.

Partly as a result of this there was considerable stimulus in Great Britain and Canada towards the formation of a committee which would involve the government in more productive research. The setting up of the national research council after that time grew out of the cabinet committee and in 1928 the government started the erection of a national research council laboratory which was opened in 1932.

In the following years until 1939 or 1940, research activity on the part of the government grew slowly but at the time of the second world war there was a tremendous expansion in this field. Throughout the second world war various laboratories across the country, including several here in Ottawa, were engaged in defence research. This was still within the scope of the national research council and the effort during those war years was naturally of a more applied nature having in mind technological advances, the solving of various problems and successes which could contribute directly to our war effort. Some of the matters one might mention which were the subject of research were various medical fields, radar, biological warfare and so forth. Those are some that come to mind.

However, after the war it became obvious that the defence part should probably have a separate entity, and separate representation. I would say, Mr. Speaker that the whole structure and interrelationship of the whole defence research board as it came into being and that of the national research council and other organizations would bear close scrutiny by such a committee as it is proposed should be established. The encouragement of research by additional funds must be related to the structure and interrelationships of the various bodies now engaged in fundamental research.

The defence research board was created shortly after the second world war and was set up in much the same manner as the national research council, with which I should like to deal again in a few moments. Representatives of each of the armed services are members of the board and at the present time, as well as over the past few years, there is considerable interlocking of membership with the national research council. However, structurally the defence research board is a unit and entity within the Department of National Defence.

The defence research board has made a very considerable contribution to research in this country. It gives grants in aid of research to universities and operates as well an extensive system of laboratories throughout the country. Much of its research, of course, has been devoted to applied work of direct interest to the armed forces. One can think of laboratories such as that at Suffield, Alberta, the northern laboratory at Churchill, Manitoba, the medical laboratory in Toronto and the armament and research development centre at Quebec City as examples of the places at which these activities are carried out. While in the defence research board the emphasis has been on applied research, there has been considerable success as well with fundamental work, some of it carried out at universities.

The national research council was the predecessor of the defence research board, from which the latter split off as a separate group. The national research council consists at the present time of some 21 members, four of whom are paid officials. The remaining 17 are selected from the universities and industry. I would suggest that a number of these people be interviewed by the committee and be asked to present their thoughts on Canadian research because I think that in a general way their experience is probably more widespread in the field of Canadian research than is the case with the members of any other single group.

The president of the national research council presides over the council and is also in charge of the laboratories which the council operates. Three vice presidents, paid officials of the council, are responsible for administration, medical research and science respectively. The national research council is not a government department but a special organization which has the responsibility of the operation of its own laboratories and for assistance to scientific and engineering departments of Canadian universities in pursuing research work. The council, as members know, reports to the committee of the cabinet and it is the chairman of this committee, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Churchill), who presents the council's budget to parliament.

It might be said that aid from

the national research council to universities for research is substantially greater than that from any other Canadian body. These funds for research are devoted to both fundamental and applied research. There are various scientific divisions within the national research council such as applied biology, pure and applied physics, and pure and applied chemistry. Those are some of the divisions that come readily to mind. Laboratories are not operated by the council in the field of medical research. The vice president in charge of this subject works very closely with the various government departments, universities and industries which are directly involved in research.

Of course, one would be remiss if he did not mention nuclear research in Canada. This, in many of its aspects, is again the outgrowth of work done by the national research council. Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, a crown company, grew out of work that had been done some 10 years previously in the national research council. This crown company collaborates with industry in the development and use of atomic energy. We have as well, the atomic energy control board which handles the distribution of radioactive materials in Canada and awards grants in aid for research in this field to various educational institutions.

I should like to go back for a moment, Mr. Speaker, to the question of where we go from here, particularly as that question relates to the national research council. As I said before, I feel that the universities should be the mainstay of fundamental research in Canada. I feel, not being critical of the council as such, that we have a basic problem of organization in that we have a unit which is both running laboratories on its own, with a very considerable staff, which has considerable investment and production interest, and which is also granting funds for similar or different research to other institutions, mainly universities. This dual role is perhaps a difficult one, perhaps an unwise one, for an institution or a council to be undertaking. I would say, however, it was probably a natural procedure. However, the question arises as to whether or not these roles would be better separated in the future.

We have as an example, in Great Britain, formation of three councils. These councils are the medical research council of Great Britain; the agricultural research council of Great Britain; and the department of scientific and industrial research, which is actually a government department and takes up, so to speak, the other areas of industrial and technical research, general biological, physical and chemical research. There are, in this way, three divisions and not the one organization as we have at present in the national research council. These three organizations report directly to the cabinet. I think that possibly this is a move which might be studied by this committee, if it were set up. Advice could be sought on this question from the people in industry, from the members of the national research council themselves, from the scientists in various government departments engaged in research as well as from the people in universities who are the recipients of a considerable proportion of the money which the national research council grants each year.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, that the increase in the funds for the national research council has been a very encouraging sign. We can scan the expenditures of the national research council and find that in the year 1952-53, for example, \$15,400,000 were expended, and much the same in the following two years. Coming along to 1955-56, we find that just over \$16 million were expended; 1957-58, \$20.2 million. Then we see, in the estimates for 1958-59 and 1959-60 very significant increases. In 1958-59 the figure is \$25,992,000, while in 1959-60 the figure is \$30,133,000. This is a very rapid rate of increase and, I believe, an important sign of the increasingly important place given to research in this country. I feel that one of the most important points in this connection is that the larger proportion, perhaps 75 per cent or more, of the budget each year is spent on the council's own laboratories, staff and research work. The remainder is used for grants in aid of research and scholarships to universities.

The amount spent on these grants in aid of research and scholarships has jumped very appreciably in the last two years. We had an item in the estimates last year, 1958-59, of almost \$6 million for scholarships and grants in aid of research, while in 1959-60 this

ROBERTS - ARMSTRONG HOLY CROSS NUPTIALS

Rev. Fr. Thomas Van Laer officiated at the marriage of Marion Armstrong and Frank Roberts, which took place in Holy Cross R.C. Church at 8 a.m. on March 30th. The bride, who was employed at Avro Aircraft is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Armstrong of Ireland. Mr. Roberts is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Roberts, 63 Mill St., and is employed with the Massey-Ferguson Co., in Woodstock.

The bride wore a ballerina length blue gown with overhang of white tulle and carried a bouquet of white carnations and red sweetheart roses. Her attendant was the groom's sister, Miss Margaret Roberts, who wore blue taffeta with overhang of silk organza. Allan MacMillan gave the bride in marriage and Chester Culligan was groomsmen.

A wedding breakfast and reception was held at the home of the bride's parents and Mr. and Mrs.

Roberts left on a honeymoon trip the bride wearing a royal blue suit and white accessories. They are living at 63 Mill Street.

Resident Seventy Years In Norval and District

William John Slingsby who came here in 1882 from England at the age of 14 with his grandfather died in Halton Manor on Wednesday, April 15th at the age of ninety. The late Mr. Slingsby lived in Norval and district from 1882 until 1952 when illness forced him to give up housekeeping.

His wife the former Mary Elizabeth Bird predeceased him some forty years ago. They had no children.

On his arrival in this country he worked for the late Henry Pettigrew and the late Robert Gledinning then on his own farm up the Credit Valley. He left there many years later to work at Noble's grist mill in the village of Norval.

He was a staunch member of St. Paul's Anglican Church, was confirmed in 1898 and until 1952 was seldom absent from a church service. He served both as rector's warden and people's warden for many years and supported his Church in countless other ways.

He is survived by two brothers, Ernest of Toronto and Thomas of British Columbia and two sisters, Mary H. (Mrs. A. Davidge) and Margaret (Mrs. J. S. McDermott), both of Toronto. He will long be affectionately remembered as "Uncle John" by many nieces and nephews.

—Don't miss the Minstrel Show again this week end at Wrigglesworth School.

(continued next week)

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Neuritis is caused by pressure on the nerves involved, or by a highly toxic state of the blood due to improper function of some of the blood purifying glands and organs. In both cases the cause is that something has interfered with the flow of vital energy over the nerves. In time, if not corrected, the nerves begin to degenerate, followed by impaired motion and partial paralysis of the affected area.

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