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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

In Bulletin #2 we alluded to the imminent passage of Bill C-26 which would change the structure of the granting agencies in Canada. This Bill received third reading this fall. We must wait and see if the new Humanities and Social Science Research Council will be an activist group, as some hope, rather than a passive group like the Canada Council. The Symons Report spoke to the problem of the lack of Canadian content in science teaching (and university education generally) and the new granting agency is in an excellent position to take Symons' recommendations seriously. But exactly what needs to be done, and who should do it, is still very hazy.

Two recent meetings underscore this. One, held in Ottawa in August under the auspices of the Science Council, brought together historians, teachers, archivists, and those interested in science and society. This generated a good deal of discussion of problems but a bewildering variety of suggestions for action. Happily, the Science Council staff have retained their good humour and are pressing forward for wider, more detailed discussion. A second meeting, held in Ottawa in September, brought together historians and archivists (see S. Guillaume's report in this issue). The fallout from this meeting was the striking of a committee.

Urgent action on a number of fronts is clearly indicated by the discussion in both meetings. Yet, for all the organizing, it seems to us that if we are to know anything of science and technology in Canada's past, present, and future, we must, in the words of one of us (NRB) "stop talking and start writing."