

T. G. Pickavance
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Division Heads

Future Programme of Research Group

1. As announced at the Division Heads Committee meeting on March 2nd, the Authority has been considering the effect of restricting the growth of its staff to 8% p.a. for the next 3 years.
2. At their meeting on January 30th the Authority decided that the proposed limitation would be a reasonable target for the next 3 years, and that the Research and Industrial Groups should work to the 8% figure. The Director was invited, in consultation with Sir Donald Perrott,
 - (a) to examine the Research Group programme in the light of the policy proposed in regard to commitments affecting staff levels after 1962, since growth after that date may be more drastically restricted.
 - (b) to study further the redeployment of Research Group staff within the limits proposed, and the possibility of increased extra-mural work and co-operative work with industry, and to report again in 3 months time.
3. The Director has set up a Working Party under Mr. D.W. Fry to assist him with these studies. Membership of this Working Party is

Mr. D.W. Fry (Chairman)

Dr. E. Bretscher

Dr. J.V. Dunworth

Mr. L. Grainger

Dr. W.M. Lomer

Mr. L.B. Mullett

Dr. T.G. Pickavance

Dr. R. Spence

Mr. D.R. Willson

Mr. R.M. Fishen (Secretary)
4. At its first meeting, the Working Party concluded that one of the first priorities in the Research Group must be to provide staff to work on new ideas. If staff numbers were limited this would inevitably mean stopping old projects or getting them off the site e.g. by extra-mural contract.
5. The Working Party therefore decided to ask Division Heads to consider what work they would recommend stopping, or moving outside the Authority, in, say, the next 3 years if their complement had to be fixed at its present level. Could you please let me have such a list showing if possible a rough estimate of staff numbers involved, not later than April 1st.
6. The premise of holding Divisional complements to their present size is reasonable if the exercise is to be taken seriously, as the Working Party feels it must be in the future interests of the Research Group. It must be appreciated that most, if not all, of the limited growth over the next 3 years (see para. 2) is already mortgaged for existing commitments.

D.R. Willson

Circulation:-

Mr. D.W. Fry

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Mr. D.R. Willson

Director (for information)

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FUTURE AIMS OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

The Authority, in considering Groups' proposals for implementing the restriction of expansion to 8% per annum for the next three years, were conscious that this would involve some re-assessment of objectives. In particular, the Authority feels that expansion at any pace for an indefinite period is now open to challenge, and has expressed the view that after 1962 it should be possible to avoid further growth by cutting older projects at the same rate that new ones develop.

The Research Group has been asked to report on its re-assessment of its programme in this context, and its proposals for increased participation by industry, within three months.

The Director has asked that you should join a Working Party under Mr. D.W. Fry's chairmanship to examine these problems. The first meeting is proposed for 3.00 p.m. on 17th March in the Conference Room, Cockcroft Hall, (there is an R.G.M.B. in the morning), and it is hoped to have a short factual summary available then.

D.R. Willson

11th March, 1959

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