S.O. 21

HEALTH

LEUKEMIA RESEARCH—NECESSITY FOR FUNDING

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, through its grant program the Medical Research Council provides support for research projects in health sciences whether basic, applied, or clinical.

Currently, at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto, and at a number of selected centres in Canada, bone marrow transplants are being carried out for leukemia patients. This is a well controlled, collaborative study designed to improve transplant techniques and to evaluate the benefit of transplants in comparison with conservative management. Preliminary results are most promising and encouraging, but it will be another two years before it can be said whether transplants will make a significant breakthrough in the search for a leukemia cure.

• (1410)

This study is seriously jeopardized by the small number of available medical research grants in Canada whether private, provincial, or federal in origin. In the current year 916 projects were submitted to the Medical Research Council. Seven hundred and twenty were considered worthy of funding, but only 92 were given grants due to budget constraints. The award rate was therefore 10 per cent. It had never been below 25 per cent in previous years.

Canada is fortunate in having dedicated, outstanding scientists in the field of medical research. One such medical scientist working on the marrow transplants for a leukemia cure in Toronto has M.D. and Ph.D. degrees with nine years of research experience. He and his kind are deserving of the full support of our Medical Research Council. Funding should not be limited to only 10 per cent of Canada's pool of gifted and trained—

Madam Speaker: Order.

AGRICULTURE

CONDEMMATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES AFFECTING FARMERS IN WESTERN CANADA

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon-Souris): Madam Speaker, there is a very real crisis in western Canadian agriculture today, due to a number of factors. A combination of rising costs, declining grain prices, disastrously high interest rates, and inadequate Government policies, have forced many farmers to the verge of bankruptcy.

Unfortunately, the Government's energy and transportation policies have added substantially to this problem. While many improvements are needed, two changes can be made immediately. First of all, the farmers' very substantial operating costs can be and should be reduced by abolishing the 9 per cent federal sales tax on farm fuels and fertilizers.

noble objective of pursuing the public interest. As instruments of public policy they have played a key role in our nation's development. However, during the last 16 years, we have witnessed unlimited expansion of state owned agencies and ever increasing government involvement in the Canadian economy. This sub-government of state enterprise has resulted in Crown Corporations becoming increasingly less accountable to the people, while their financial operations have continued to grow exponentially. Canadians have been denied the right to scrutinize their operations through this Parliament.

The recently introduced Bill C-158 is a further example of the Liberal attempt to prevent Parliament from exercising its fundamental responsibility. CDIC, a newly established Crown Corporation, is to be granted powers which would allow it to delve into Canadian business and spend the taxpayers' money without adequate control on the part of Parliament. The public interest requires that this House oppose the Liberals' policy of doing indirectly what they cannot do directly.

DISARMAMENT

ORDER TO DISMANTLE PEACE CAMP ON PARLIAMENT HILL

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Madam Speaker, since mid-April a group of young Canadians has been camping out for peace on Parliament Hill. When they first began their vigil to protest Cruise missile testing in Canada, they encountered tremendous odds from forces beyond anyone's control. They spent nights huddled while freezing rain, driving snow, and hail fell all around them. They did all this without benefit of tents, which they were told they could not erect on the grass of Parliament Hill.

Now, forces beyond their control—but not beyond Parliament's control—have decreed that the Peace Camp be dismantled today at four o'clock. In a hand delivered letter today, the protesters were told to pack up their sign and cart off their information table, ostensibly because there is not enough room for peace protesters and tourists on Parliament Hill.

There are Ministers in this House who sympathize with the protesters outside. And there are Ministers in this House who have the power to reverse the decision of the House of Commons administrator from whom this directive to disband emanates. These protesters do not want to leave the Hill, and I and my colleagues in the New Democratic Party support their right to be here. We believe their protest is a legitimate protest being which is carried out in a non-violent and legitimate fashion. The arguments about the Peace Camp being a threat to security, or an eyesore and nuisance to tourists, do not wash with us. What is happening here is the suppression of the individual's right to freedom of speech—

Madam Speaker: Order. Order, please. The Hon. Member, of course, is entitled to make a statement at this particular time. However, I must tell him that whatever takes place on the grounds outside the House of Commons does not come under my jurisdiction, nor under that of the administrator.