

We cannot afford this cutback. The Americans have increased their spending on research into the causes of cardiovascular disease by close to half a million dollars. They are finding out what is killing their citizens. Cardiovascular disease, the lipids, all have to be studied in people from their infancy. High levels of cholesterol are being discovered in children. All this needs more research. But for every dollar spent on research, a measure of prevention must be reached in the treatment of sickness. If there ever was a penny wise and pound foolish method, the Minister of National Health and Welfare has found it. Its costs may be met tomorrow in more preventable deaths and sickness.

I would ask the minister to take another look at this problem. He has the highest-spending department in the government. Its increased expenditures ran to millions of dollars last year. I ask him to go back to basic essentials in the prevention of illness and increase these funds by at least 15 per cent. Surely a Canadian life needs as much protection as an American one, and this year the Americans are making a 15 per cent increase.

Mr. Norman A. Cafik (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, roughly a week ago the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs, when it was dealing with the estimates, had before it Dr. Malcolm Brown who is the president of the Medical Research Council. All parties were there to participate in the discussion of their particular budgets. Anyone who was there would certainly agree that Dr. Brown explained the situation in relation to the Medical Research Council, their work and their budget, quite adequately. I could not detect the slightest suggestion by the president of MRC that they were in fact inadequately funded so that they would not be able to do

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the kind of work that they are expected to do in research for the people of this country.

I think I should make a couple of other points if I may at this time, Mr. Speaker. The amount of money spent on medical research is not all spent by the Medical Research Council. Quite clearly, within the federal sphere alone the total budget for medical research is in excess of \$100 million annually, yet the budget of the Medical Research Council itself is just in excess of \$41 million. There is a great deal more being done than is being done just by the Medical Research Council. A second point I want to make is that Dr. Brown indicated that our contribution as Canadians, in terms of expanding medical knowledge in the world, was certainly very high considering our population and our budget. In fact, it was somewhere in the neighbourhood of a 5 per cent annual contribution toward the world's accumulation of medical knowledge.

I am sure that past discoveries referred to by the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Rynard) cannot always be related directly to federal expenditures in specific instances. At times, discoveries that are made are not related at all to the kind of money spent. Governments are not the only groups which provide funds. Private contributions are made and I think these ought to be encouraged.

There was a suggestion by the hon. member that not enough is being spent on cancer research. I wish to point out to him that the federal government itself has absolutely no jurisdiction to determine what kind of projects are funded by MRC. This is their decision and their decision alone: it is according to the priorities established by that independent body. I think Dr. Brown dealt quite adequately with that question before the committee.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.20 p.m.