

The Address—Mr. Beattie

Within the medical field itself, the priorities are by no means clearly established. What shall be done with the limited funds available? There are those who continue to insist on emphasizing research into the leading killer diseases. There are others, equally insistent, who feel we have a greater need right now for improving the delivery of health care services. It cannot be denied that health care is still very much a cottage industry. We urgently need to improve our means of making quality health care available to great masses of people.

Must this be done at the expense of research? And if so, how long could we hope to stay ahead of the game without finding still simpler and less costly ways of preventing and curing serious physical afflictions? The dilemma is even: we cannot afford to abandon basic research, nor can we ignore the need for improved health care delivery. Somehow we must accomplish both of these objectives. But how? Perhaps the answer is implicit in another question, the one that asks, "If we can land men on the moon, why can't we find a cure for cancer?"

With increasing frequency these days, this question leads to a demand that the United States make the conquest of cancer a national goal, just as its moonlanding effort was. How simple a solution that appears to be. And yet in many ways it poses problems considerably more complex than those of getting a man to the moon and back again. For one thing, an all-out attack on cancer lacks the element of competitiveness so inherent in the space race. I somehow have the feeling that very few people in Canada or the United States would be very upset if we learned tomorrow that the Russians had discovered a cure for cancer.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. It being 5.45 p.m. it is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 38 (5), to interrupt these proceedings and forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of the main motion.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Mr. Baldwin: On division.

Motion (Mr. Blais) agreed to.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council) moved:

That the said Address be engrossed and presented to His Excellency the Governor General by Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

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SUPPLY

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council) moved:

That this House do, at its next sitting, consider the business of supply.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Baldwin: Including Governor General's warrants.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Is it the pleasure of the House that we call it six o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

At 5.50 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.