

Many of the provinces regard that particular field jealously; they regard it as a field in which they should have priority of interest in both administration and policy. But it seemed to me that, acting as a friend of the court, as it were, I as Minister of National Health and Welfare might perhaps receive a ready acceptance from all these bodies, including the provincial governments, to attend a conference at which, at any rate, we could have a general discussion of the problem—and we did.

I must pay my tribute tonight to the representatives of the various organizations to which I have made reference, to the medical colleges of the universities and to lay bodies like the Canadian cancer association which have done such a satisfactory job in bringing to public attention the desirability of early diagnosis. The Canadian cancer association has made a very important contribution. I also want to pay a tribute to the officers of my department for the part they played in the conference of last January.

Mr. MacNICOL: May I ask if the medical departments of the provinces cooperated?

Mr. MARTIN: Every one of the provincial departments of health cooperated. I was anxious to learn from them, as I am sure every hon. member would be, whether or not our maximum effort was being put forward to eradicate this disease or whether, as I suggested a moment ago, we were only making a piecemeal attack on a great national hazard. I learned that what has often been referred to as the war against cancer was not a total war. The campaign was, in reality, a series of local attacks, many of them magnificently fought, nevertheless not capable of justifying the designation of an all-out national campaign.

There was the lack of research workers, the lack of laboratory facilities, the lack of coordination of effort, and particularly the lack of the instruments, material and human, by which we could at least say that we were putting forward our best effort. It became apparent as well that the public conscience was uneasy and that the time was ripe to mobilize our entire efforts in some sort of unified or coordinating command or body. The moment had come, it seemed to me, and it seemed to them, when a concerted, well-organized and a properly directed attack on cancer should be pursued. It was generally recognized by those who were there, men like Doctor Charles Best, one of the great collaborators and co-discoverers of insulin, and Doctor Collip and others that I could mention who have

made a contribution in one field or another in medical scientific research, that no advance could be made until we had some sort of intelligence report. They canvassed the problem from every angle, and after two days of full discussion preceded by *ex parte* reports and submissions, we were able to arrive at a full measure of agreement. First of all, there was a discussion as to what was being done in the field of education. We reviewed the extent of scientific research at present being carried on at the universities. We heard reports about the facilities set up in the provinces for diagnosis and treatment of sufferers of cancer, and we inquired into the reasons why so few young men were willing to devote themselves to full-time investigation of the causes and cure of malignant growths.

Then our attention was turned to the urgent necessity for assessing the whole problem by means of surveys and the need for adopting some form of uniform reporting, not only of deaths from cancer, but also the data about cases that have been diagnosed, treated and saved from dying. Lastly, and perhaps of most importance, ways and means were explored by which an adequate campaign against cancer could be waged. The conference moved unerringly towards one objective. When we talk about the problem of unity in this country I think of medical men and laymen from all provinces working together so that problems in Canada may be solved. I think, for instance, of Doctor Simard of the university of Montreal, and I think of Doctors Vezina and Bergere of Laval collaborating with men like the former dean of the School of Medicine of the university of Western Ontario, Dean Hall, now president of the university; I think of men like Best and Collip and the dean of McGill and so on, all working toward a common objective.

Mr. POULIOT: And Doctor Adélaré Groulx and Mayor Camillien Houde of Montreal.

Mr. MARTIN: One had the impression there of what could be done to meet the objectives of the hon. member for Lanark (Mr. Blair), that this is a problem which should engage our full cooperative effort on all levels of government and of all classes in the community.

We moved unerringly forward to a single objective, namely, that we should formulate and direct a national cancer control programme. It was decided to set up a body that is now known as the National Cancer Institute of Canada. May I say at once the word "institute" may conjure up in the minds of