

from you our real concern that disparities in economic opportunity cannot be ignored in relation to the shortages of medical personnel which we experience in Canada and which is experienced in an equal amount in the United States. The drawing power of the States on all academic disciplines has been obvious to us for a long time. In 1965 an operation retrieval was commenced under the auspices of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. There was little attempt being made specifically to the medical graduates until 1967, when the associates of the Canadian Medical College embarked on their own version of an operation retrieval directed to the graduates of Canadian medical schools who were interning or undergoing residence training in the United States.

This is a project which the Canadian Medical Association heartily approves. We feel that any effort in this direction can only be commended. We have a real shortage of medical personnel, and there is a drain of doctors. Whether they should go or not we feel is not a proper consideration. In point of fact, they do leave the United States.

**Senator Connolly (Ottawa West):** How successful has the retrieval been?

**Dr. Matthews:** We do not know. It is too early, since it began in 1967. It is a long-term project. They are being sent lots of literature, and the hospitals are being visited by teams from the Association of Medical Colleges. The personnel are being talked to in hospitals where they are interning. They have had a favourable reception, but we have not the statistics to give you an answer to that question. When the drain started we know there were about 900 graduates of Canadian medical schools in the United States at any one time. The latest figure was about 700. Whether this is due to this operation retrieval or other factors, such as the war in Viet Nam, we cannot answer. We do know, and this is our concern, that anything that does increase the discrepancy in disposable income between doctors in Canada and doctors in the United States is bound to jeopardise to some extent anyway—it is an intangible business—our efforts to attract them back.

**Senator Connolly (Ottawa West):** Have many returned?

**Dr. Matthews:** They are coming back all the time.

**Senator Connolly (Ottawa West):** I know that you do not have the statistics, but you do

have evidence that the return flow is working.

**Dr. Matthews:** There is a return flow, but it is not properly documented.

**Senator Connolly (Ottawa West):** If there is going to be some further consideration on this point, I wonder if the spokesman would also consider the question of inflow from other countries to Canada to supplement the existing supply of doctors in Canada?

**Dr. Matthews:** It is obvious that there is an outflow and an inflow. There are two sides to the question, the ones you lose or the ones you cannot attract. Again the economic opportunities are going to make a difference, whether to attract them here or keep them here.

That is the end of my statement. I would like, if I may indulge upon you, to have Mr. Freamo run through some of the other parts of our brief rather quickly.

**The Acting Chairman:** Before we do, are there any other questions with regard to Dr. Matthews' statement?

**Senator Carter:** I should like to follow on the question Senator Connolly (Ottawa West) asked earlier. Are the doctors who come to Canada from other countries attracted here for the same reasons you say Canadian doctors are attracted to the United States? Or are there other factors involved?

**Dr. Matthews:** There are a good many factors involved, sir. There are the conditions under which they are practising in their own country; there are the opportunities here for practice—the economic opportunities; there are also opportunities in other fields, such as research and teaching; and there are the facilities with which they have to work. At any one time it is the balance among these factors in the other countries of the world, in Canada and in the United States. I cannot be more specific than that.

**Senator Carter:** A doctor from Europe or from the United Kingdom who wants to leave could go to Australia or to the United States but he comes to Canada instead. Is that because it is easier for him to get settled in Canada than it is for him to get settled in the United States or Australia? I ask that because some of them come here first and then leave afterwards.

**Dr. Matthews:** Some of them come here and remain here for several years in a posi-