

some faith in the remedy, because people do not spend their own money unless they believe it will be applied to some good purpose or some purpose in which they strongly believe. When the writer said that he was willing to pay part of the expense, it seems to me evidence of something of which the minister should take cognizance. On April 15, that is twelve days after this letter was written, and when the minister must have had it in his hands, he replies to my question that they have made no investigation of Doctor Golden's work. It is sufficient evidence to convince me that not nearly as much importance is attached to this in the official mind as there should be.

I now come to another letter, written on April 4 from Montreal, from a man who apparently stands fairly high in a government department, because he was engaged for a while, I believe, with the national research council. I have a copy of the letter he wrote to the minister. I am not going to read it all, because I do not want to prolong this discussion; I want to convince the minister that the matter is important enough to have something in the estimates or the supplementary estimates to do something about it. The writer, addressing the minister at the House of Commons in his official capacity begins:

Dear Mr. Claxton:

Having been engaged for many years in research concerning the etiology and therapy of rheumatic diseases, I was very much interested in the questions asked by Messrs. Arthur Smith (PC-Calgary West) and T. J. Bentley (CCF-Swift Current) in Commons concerning the government's measures to combat arthritis and rheumatism.

Here, later in the letter, is what to me is a singular paragraph, supporting my contention that the departmental officials are not sufficiently concerned about this:

I may say that up to now we had to depend entirely upon the generosity of two American foundations (the Commonwealth fund of New York and the United States Sugar Research Foundation) whose board of advisers considered the work worthy of financial support. In view of the rather expensive nature of this type of research and because of its great practical importance, additional facilities would, of course, be very welcome and I thought it best to call our problem to your attention.

I note from press reports that you pointed out in the House of Commons that no application for such work has been received by the national research council. I may say that during the war, the N.R.C. has subsidized my work on war research problems and now that these have lost their immediate importance, I submitted an application for a small grant on a different subject (lactation). I did so because the latter problem is less costly and I hesitated to ask for the

[Mr. Bentley.]

rather substantial subsidy which would be necessary in order to expedite the progress of our work on rheumatic diseases ...

That is signed by Hans Selye, professor and director of the Institute of Experimental Medicine and Surgery, university of Montreal. I assume that he is a responsible medical man and cannot be classed as a quack.

Mr. LAURENDEAU: May I ask the hon. member a question: has he received a report from any medical association anywhere in Canada?

Mr. BENTLEY: I have only the ordinary medical journals, which I do not understand well enough to discuss here. I should like to give hon. members something more, but I cannot. I am presenting the case from a layman's point of view, from information I have obtained from people who appear to have some standing in relation to this subject. I have had advice from the minister of some journals, and have looked them up, but it requires someone with more knowledge than I have to give the house information from them.

When the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. Merritt) was speaking the other evening when this debate was opened, and suggesting that educational work was important, the minister agreed with him. There are many ways of dealing with this matter, and I believe that one important way, which was supported by the minister only a short time ago to-night, when he was discussing the pamphlet with reference to camping, is the matter of diet. We have organizations that are extremely interested in the health of the people. The Health League of Canada prepared a calendar, a copy of which I believe is in the possession of every hon. member, telling the kind of foods that are important. These illustrations can be found in all the schoolhouses throughout the country. Certainly, in all rural schools in Saskatchewan, you will find charts of this kind giving information on the question of diet. But if it is important that the right kind of foods be consumed by our people, I submit that it is equally important that the government should educate itself to the point where it recognizes the unwisdom of removing the subsidy on milk, thus increasing the price of that commodity to people who need it in their diet if they are to grow up to be healthy, with sufficient resistance against diseases of the kinds we have been discussing.

The thing is inconsistent because the problem that we are dealing with must be approached from all angles. The \$11,500,000 to be voted here will be wasted money if, after all the advice and the education given