

*Supply—Health and Welfare*

and I should like the minister to tell me what the government does to assist this type of organization.

Before concluding I should like to bring to the minister's attention a rather unusual situation. We have these organizations which are doing excellent work and there is a man in Trail, a smelter worker named Duncan MacDonald, who has taken a very great interest in this type of work. He is a single man who has devoted all his spare time to assisting handicapped people. We have had a number of cases in Kootenay West of people who were considered incurable, and at his own expense this young man on his four days off—he works 12 days at Consolidated Mining and then has four off—will take these people across the line to an institution in the state of Washington.

A number of parents of children have come to see me. This young man has taken various children across to this institution over a period of years. I myself have seen the tremendous improvement that has occurred. The father of one child came to see me; and before receiving treatment this child was a sad case indeed. Within a period of six or eight months there has been a great improvement. I know of another young man who was given up as completely incurable, but who is now able to walk around on crutches and according to a letter I received two or three weeks ago is now seeking employment.

This work is being done by a devoted man whose principal interest is to do what he can for these handicapped persons. He has written me a number of letters, and I am wondering what could be done to assist this type of work. He has demonstrated what can be done. I know of several cases of children and adults who have been given up by the medical profession as completely incurable, but he takes them to this institution across the line on his days off, stays there a day or two with them, and then comes back. Possibly the next time he will take someone else. I have seen the results of this excellent work and I think it is most commendable, and I feel I am justified in bringing it to the attention of the committee and the minister.

I should like to know if the department has inquired into this institution in the state of Washington and what it is doing in this respect. I have seen the results with my own eyes, and I know they are worth while.

**Mr. Green:** I should like to say a word with regard to arthritis and the rheumatic diseases. As the minister knows, we have in British Columbia a very active branch of the Canadian arthritis society, whose driving

[Mr. Herridge.]

force I think is Miss Mary Pack, who has done outstanding work in this connection. Apparently the only provision that can be made under this vote for work in connection with arthritis and the rheumatic diseases is under the general public health grant. That means, of course, that any proposal must first be approved by the province and, second, it must be related directly to general public health services. Other grants, such as the tuberculosis control grant, the mental health grant, the venereal diseases control grant and the cancer control grant are available for specific projects which can be of a continuing nature.

Apparently these people have been told that there are to be no new research projects this year having to do with arthritis and the rheumatic diseases. I am wondering why there could not be a specific grant in connection with these particular diseases. They affect several hundred thousand Canadian citizens, a larger number than most other diseases. I am told that in some instances research work is to be stopped, though that may not be an accurate summing up of the situation. I wish the minister would tell the committee whether it would be possible to have a specific grant for research into these particular diseases.

**Mr. Martin:** I shall reply briefly to the hon. member for Kootenay West. With regard to the arthritis and rheumatism society, a grant of \$78,000 is made to that particular group for work in British Columbia alone. The amount for research into arthritis by various universities throughout the country comes to an additional half a million dollars.

In regard to the specific point mentioned by my hon friend, money for this particular purpose can come from the general public health grant; it can come from the crippled children grant; it can come from the public health research grant. Except for the total of the appropriations, there is no limit theoretically to what can be done. The amount of research is determined by the recommendation made to me by a research committee composed of five of the most eminent men in Canada, who are not connected with the government. The fact that there is no specific amount for arthritis does not mean anything, because we have an interchangeable arrangement under the various grants. In other words you would have to list all the diseases, and they run into many hundreds. It is a general public health grant. It does not exclude others.

In regard to British Columbia, for the western society for physical rehabilitation and related projects a total of \$178,000 has been provided in the last four years. This society is one of the great organizations in this field.