

health care system which has eradicated many of these killers.

In 1982 that started to change. That was the first year we identified a case of AIDS in Canada. Since then 3,000 more have surfaced. As the disease spreads through the heterosexual community, we see more mothers giving birth to children infected with HIV.

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In New Jersey one in seven children has the virus at birth but with many of the diseases plaguing the Third World, the situation is completely preventable. AIDS is still a new disease and we must make sure that it does not have an opportunity to become an old one.

Looking toward the year 2000 the burden of the national debt may not lighten appreciably without several more years of continued economic growth. The cruel truth is that this year we will be spending more on the debt interest payments than on old age security, family allowance, child care, health care and all of the other programs and services delivered by my department put together.

If we keep going at this rate, which is adding another \$30 or \$35 billion to the debt each year, by the year 2000 our accumulated debt would approach three quarters of a trillion dollars. That would be the worst thing that we could do for the future of our children.

Why should they be saddled for the excesses of their parents? We came to that realization about the environment. Why can we not come to that realization about the debt?

Over the years Canadian governments have developed a national network of social support programs that are admired by people in much of the world, including many, I believe, in this country. Despite tensions in the system today, our health care system is remarkably successful, so much so that I was recently invited to Washington to explain its workings to a group of American health care experts looking north of the border for solutions.

Each and every child in Canada must have access to adequate health care. Our goal must be to make sure that each and every child is also freed from the trap of poverty. The hon. member for Oshawa has asked us to

try to eliminate poverty among Canadian children by the year 2000.

Supply

During Question Period he asked whether or not I was making new announcements today. I am sure that the hon. member would not expect that having just received notice of his motion late yesterday afternoon the government would redesign whole new programs simply in response. What I have tried to do is indicate today that important progress has been made, that we commit ourselves to the principle of making more progress, that we believe that we are on track in terms of moving ahead in the right direction and that by working together there is substantial progress that can be made.

Simply redistributing wealth will not help us to achieve that goal. It is essential that we increase the total amount of wealth by encouraging our economy, removing impediments to growth and reducing the burden of debt facing our children.

The point that I must repeat, almost whenever I speak as Minister of National Health and Welfare dealing with this issue related to the debt and dealing with our children's future is this. We are spending more money just for the interest charges this year on the national debt than on all of the programs administered by my department put together, all of our national health care, all of our welfare programs, all of our old age security, family allowances and so on. It is the very survival of these programs which help us to have a humane and compassionate and caring society that is in question if we do not get our economic house in order.

Our generation, the generation of the Leader of the NDP and myself, must take that initiative now. We must stop borrowing from our children's future to finance expenses today. We are concerned about poverty. We are concerned about our ability to maintain progressive social programs which will help us to alleviate the suffering of those people who are in poverty in Canada and to give opportunity to Canadian children.

It is essential that we ensure the very survival of those programs. It is essential that we get our economic house in order.

Let me conclude this way. We do not have to be afraid of the future. We have a prosperous and a dynamic economy which if managed well promises to improve even further. We have the tools to reduce the number of