

I say to the minister that we on this side of the house are prepared to get behind him. We think this work is just as necessary as he said it was last night. We do not think the national cancer institute can do the work it is intended to do of coordinating all efforts in research in the Dominion of Canada unless further funds are provided, so that from 1947 onward it can look after the applications which I understand are being made upon it by institutions and medical colleges throughout Canada for the necessary funds for purposes of research. If the minister asks for supplementary moneys for this year and supplementary years I think he will get it. It is not a matter that should be dealt with from year to year. I do not know how you go about the matter in this house; I do not know how you arrange to vote moneys for more than one year, but I think these particular funds must be provided for over a period of years, otherwise there will not be sufficient money to enable the institute to step forward and carry on a complete and comprehensive work. The minister fathered this baby; he will have to feed it or it will starve to death.

There is another matter in the health estimates on which I should like to speak for a few moments, and I refer to health insurance study. On going through the estimates, I find that apparently there is not a full-time director of health insurance studies. There seems to be a gap there and, after all, this is one of the important things which fits in with the government's social security plans. Further, I note that the vote for health insurance studies this year is down by something over \$15,000. That is not a good sign, having regard to the fact that we expect this government to bring in some plan in respect to health insurance.

Mr. MARTIN: You do not always measure a contribution by the amount of money.

Mr. TIMMINS: Probably the minister will have something to say on that, but it seems to me that there is a gap there which ought to be filled in. I am reminded of the paragraph in the speech from the throne which had this to say:

Once suitable financial relationships have been arrived at with the provinces, my ministers have undertaken to seek, in a general conference or otherwise, to work out satisfactory arrangements with the provinces in regard to public investment and social security measures.

I take it that this matter of health insurance would certainly come in under social security measures. It is one matter which should be dealt with at the earliest possible moment.

[Mr. Timmins.]

The minister has been expansive with respect to this matter of national health. I have referred to this before, but speaking at Hawkesbury on April 23 last he had this to say when dealing with social security legislation in Canada:

Hawkesbury as a thriving industrial centre has a vital interest in the social security plans of the Liberal government. If they are carried out, as we hope they will be, these plans will bring to the families of this community a greater degree of security and a greater chance of happiness and well being than they have ever had before.

As I pointed out, so far as health insurance is concerned we do not seem to have made any start whatsoever in the matter. In other parts of the country, health insurance has already been started. The Ontario medical association has adopted a programme of health insurance which it is trying to bring into being. It is a prepaid medical care plan with no compulsion on the doctor or the patient; they are both to have freedom of choice. There will be small monthly payments and the plan will be for the whole family. Complete medical care will be provided, including attention by specialists. There will be no conflict with the associated medical services plan which has been in existence for ten years.

Other plans are being brought into being and great credit should be given to the pioneers in this field. The fact of the matter is that too many plans are being brought into operation and it is about time that they were coordinated into one big plan. It seems to me that the first thing that should be done is to complete these studies which apparently have been under way for some time but which now seem to be on the toboggan slide.

Some years ago I waded through all the reports of the social security committee for some considerable time and I read the dissertations of that splendid medical adviser that the department had, Doctor Heagerty. However, the report of that committee seems to have been shelved. In the meantime there are insurance company plans for health and sickness insurance which have been in existence for quite some time. I must say—and I have said this on many occasions—that I am not very much impressed by these plans. I do not think the public are getting the service warranted by the money which they put into quite a number of these plans. It seems to me that the disability which occurs is the thing that is left out of the policy.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): You cannot say that.