

*The Budget—Mr. Chrétien*

these could be covered by the supplemental appropriation, but from the letter which arrived today, it appears that this allowed only a small part of the B1 category to be funded.

This letter from Dr. Nickerson was written on April 19 of this year. In the light of this, is it surprising that an increasing number of Canadian scientists in the field of physics, chemistry, medicine and other types of research leave Canada and go to the United States? I once tried to get the Dominion Bureau of Statistics to estimate the cost to Canada of educating these highly skilled people who left Canada. Finally, after a great deal of thought, they estimated the cost in this respect at something like \$25 million a year. In the report to which I alluded, the report of the committee on research at McGill University which was submitted to the Bladen Commission, the cost was estimated at \$75 million a year. It seems to me, as so often happens in this country, that this government is being penny wise and pound foolish. Faced by a problem, we find that the government has fallen into the usual trap which one can expect from Liberal governments, and allowed things to continue as they were.

● (3:40 p.m.)

This means, as I said at the beginning, that those who are wealthy will continue to be wealthy. The builder that I mentioned earlier in Ottawa who is no different from other builders in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton or Vancouver will not only continue to be wealthy but will become wealthier and wealthier. That will be at the expense of the Canadian people, and science will continue to be ignored.

In this connection may I read from a letter which I received, dealing with this subject, from the chairman of the Manitoba Economic Consultative Board, Mr. B. H. Kristjanson, who is a very experienced and highly respected civil servant. In fact he is a top person. May I quote a couple of paragraphs from his letter:

A basic problem in slow-growth areas such as the prairie region is that the public sector has to carry a large part of the costs. Head offices of giant corporations are not located here and the smaller firms carry on little, if any, research. Our own public revenues are also relatively limited. Indeed we are hard pressed to meet general education requirements for teachers.

At the same time we believe that an increase in the growth rate in this region requires a significant increase in the investment in science and technology applied to the resources of the region. This led us to recommend the establishment of a research park with a view to assembling an effective constellation of scientific talent at one spot. We have

estimated that a group of fifty scientists would call for a budget of perhaps three million dollars per year.

Mr. Speaker, I pause for a moment to say that an expenditure of \$3 million a year in the field of basic research in the province of Manitoba is a very small amount of money when one looks at the tremendous sums spent on such projects—and I am not being critical—as Expo '67 or the Pan American games which will be held next year in my own city.

I continue quoting from the letter I received from Mr. Kristjanson:

My principal concern is that the effort be on a scale sufficiently large to merit the respect and attention of scientists on this continent. And here is where a fair amount of money will be required. This is where it seems to me that a federal allocation of funds would be very much in order. The need is to provide sufficient funds to be able to attract first-class personnel and to allow an inter-disciplinary approach to problems.

I agree completely with Mr. Kristjanson. If one studies the budget proposed by Minister of Finance he will see that if the minister does not disagree with the proposal put forward by Mr. Kristjanson, he has succeeded in ignoring it completely. If there is anything in the budget which could really give hope to Canadian scientists, I have not been able to find it.

I want to conclude by reading one sentence to the Minister of Finance from a speech made by Dr. Hans Selye, one of Canada's most distinguished and outstanding medical researchers. I quote:

Would it not be wise, for example, to put aside a small fraction of the huge sums we pay for a semblance of armed security, to develop for our children the foundations of a distinctively Canadian culture and scientific effort?

I commend those words to the Minister of Finance and hope that if he cannot give to them the consideration in the year 1966 that they warrant, that he will perhaps do so in 1967. If he does that, Mr. Speaker, he will deserve the thanks of all Canadian people.

[Translation]

**Mr. Jean Chrétien (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, as this is my first opportunity to rise on the budget debate as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance, I preferred to wait a few days before giving the house my views on the current budget in order to know exactly what kind of criticism the opposition parties could direct at the Budget speech of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp).