

Ocean Research

that respect, and I hope he will bring it to a conclusion as soon as possible.

The minister will recognize that it is embarrassing to the Chair to have to remind hon. members of the opposition that according to the standing order their comments on ministerial statements must be brief. It is more difficult for the Chair to do this when we have statements of the length now being made by the minister.

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, I will conclude forthwith. I think this statement is extremely reasonable, if not brief.

An hon. Member: It should also be intelligible.

Mr. Greene: It is intelligible to those who understand this subject, Mr. Speaker.

It is our belief that Canada can play a full and worthy part in this realm of science. The exciting scientific adventure of *Hudson 70* we believe will be an important step toward this end.

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I think unknown to yourself, the minister had practically completed his trip around Cape Horn before you stopped him. He had almost completed his statement, which he kindly sent me earlier. I feel that any comment I could make on the statement would be somewhat anticlimatic because I understand the minister has already had a press conference today on this particular statement, during which he made this statement.

I am sure the minister must find it exhilarating that his first announcement in the house, after his illness, is a pleasant one, rather than one like the unpleasant announcements he had to make when he took over his department earlier this year. I hope this is a good start which will be continued, and that one program after another of this nature will be announced by his office.

The general outline of the expeditions given to the house by the minister can only meet with approval. Canada, with its extensive shoreline and tremendous untapped continental shelf, badly needs more complete knowledge of the ocean and its resources. At first glance one might question the advantage of proceeding into the southern seas and around Cape Horn, but the movement of waters and marine life around the whole continent does affect our own shores. Work

around Canadian coastal waters is very important.

In concluding, may I say that the statement by the minister indicates the germ of an idea developing in the science policy of this country. This is an acknowledgement that Canada should select the areas in which we can best develop scientific research, without trying to cover the whole field of science, with the limited resources at our disposal.

I noticed in a newspaper that a similar proposal was made earlier this week by Dr. Hans Selye, a well-known medical researcher. We approve of the theory of this research and the approach which appears to be indicated by this statement, and we welcome the announcement.

● (2:20 p.m.)

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I am not an expert on science, as is the minister; therefore I shall not say very much about the value of this project. I am certain it will have a great deal of value and much scientific information will be obtained from it. At the same time, it seems to me that while the minister has said that a country like Canada must deploy its scientific resources wisely and that we cannot do everything, it is rather difficult to square this project with other announcements the minister has made in recent months.

The HARP project sponsored by McGill University has been scrapped. The construction of the Queen Elizabeth Observatory in British Columbia was announced at the time of the visit of the Queen. That project too has been scrapped. The ING project, which was to give tremendous impetus to our research in the field of nuclear physics, has been scrapped. Medical research is being hindered by the cut-back in the construction of hospitals.

I think members of the house, especially those on the committee which will deal with the estimates, ought to look very carefully into the question of how much say the science secretariat and the science council had in the decision that this particular project was more important and would bring greater benefits to our country than those which on earlier occasions the minister announced, and which have subsequently been scrapped.

It seems to me that without this kind of information we are left with the feeling that the scientific projects which will be begun in Canada will depend upon which minister speaks the loudest in cabinet meetings, or which person in the treasury department