

showed a 119 per cent increase. That is why the hon. member for Winnipeg South supports the bill.

**Mrs. Dobbie:** Absolutely.

**Mr. Richardson:** In the same period, industry investment in research and development in Saskatchewan increased by 170 per cent. In B.C. the increase in investment was 72 per cent. In my own province of Alberta, a leader in pharmaceutical research, current investment is at record levels, a point which I will dwell on a little further in a moment.

These numbers dramatically demonstrate that the innovative pharmaceutical manufacturers have spread their research and development spending across the country in a fashion unlike any other sector. The research community in the regions of Canada recognize the importance of this new legislation in order to foster an investment climate that will promote research and development, and the people across Canada recognize the importance of this legislation. I am sure that each of them hopes that new investment will find its way to laboratories and research facilities in their part of the country.

An important question for the people outside of central Canada concerns the ramifications for their economies if this legislation is not passed in the coming weeks.

The passing of this legislation is directly linked to job creation over the coming years in regions across the country.

On June 14, 1992 Bristol-Myers, Squibb announced that it would be spending \$250,000 on a research and development project at the University of Alberta, and on October 6, Glaxo announced it would spend \$15 million at the University of Alberta. The people of Alberta understand; they know this development research money is going to our universities creating jobs in Alberta.

On July 15, Bristol-Myers, Squibb announced it would spend \$500,000 on research and development at the University of British Columbia.

### *Government Orders*

On September 1, 1992 Merck Frosst Canada Inc. announced it would spend \$15 million on research at the University of British Columbia.

On October 5, 1992 Ayerst announced it would build a new \$60 million plant in Brandon, Manitoba. These are the types of announcements that the people in the regions of this country want to hear and they know the long-term benefits for both jobs and the health of their communities.

The Canadian Genetic Diseases Network is one of 15 research networks sponsored by the Government of Canada's \$240 million Network of Centres of Excellence program. It has already announced remarkable breakthroughs in isolating the genetic defects responsible for cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy and myotonic dystrophy.

I do not think there is a person in this room who does not think that this important work needs to be done on an urgent basis to save the lives of people with these crippling diseases.

This work is also likely to create 10 new faculty positions at UBC, representing a tremendous opportunity for researchers in Canada. They will become involved in leading edge research and development in one of the most exciting areas of science and technology.

I have spent a lot of time discussing what effect this legislation will have on western Canada but I can assure the House that the same sort of optimism exists in the east in Atlantic Canada.

As recently as December 2, 1992 Marion Merrell Dow (Canada) Inc. announced it was going to establish a cardiac prevention research centre at Dalhousie University. This centre is funded in its entirety by Marion Merrell Dow, one of Canada's largest innovative pharmaceutical companies.

It is hoped that the work conducted at the cardiac prevention research centre will lead to effective prevention programs in the fight against coronary heart disease.