

*The Address—Mr. Haidasz*

With regard to the special committee on drugs which is also mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, may I express the hope that this will be established immediately to study the high cost of drugs and to give its attention to the removal of the 11 per cent sales tax. The committee might also give its attention to the inordinate increase in the cost of quinine and quinidine which has risen from about \$5 per 100 tablets to \$12 per 100 tablets.

The health resources and research fund has been widely accepted by the research community, especially by the medical teaching profession. It represents a new look since it will provide medical researchers with improved facilities enabling them to devote more time to their work and inculcate into the students a spirit of investigation. I believe this measure should help greatly in the education of our doctors.

The federal government should also be commended for its decision to allocate more funds to the National Research Council and the Medical Research Council. The Science Secretariat which the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) established last spring has already proved to be a great help both in the area of research and in defining the financial needs of the institutions affected. Private industry has already been assisted through federal tax incentives in improving research facilities. Today, industry and the people employed in industry are benefiting from such measures.

Canada as a whole will be the beneficiary of the recent government proposal in the Speech from the Throne increasing to \$5 per capita the federal grant to our universities. We also welcome the proposal for additional federal scholarships for university students. I hope this is only the first step in making free higher education, available to every Canadian whether or not he can pay the tuition fees.

I should like to stress once again that medical research and, indeed, all other types of research, are vital to Canadian progress at home and to our reputation abroad. I would therefore urge the responsible minister to take immediate and definite steps to study the possibility of switching to the metric system of weights and measures. It is true that the metric system is already legal in Canada under the Weights and Measures Act. However, it is not mandatory; and because it is not widely applied, it is not very popular in our schools.

Recently the pharmaceutical industry in Canada changed over to the metric system.

[Mr. Haidasz.]

Apart from the efforts of the research community and the pharmaceutical industry, nothing has been done of any significance to make the people of Canada aware of the advantages of changing to the metric system or to clarify the implications of such a move. Our research scientists use the metric system, but our engineers use the English system of measurement. And this lack of uniformity is, I believe, leading us to a crisis. We have lost many orders for machinery and other products because we are clinging to an archaic system of measurement. Parliamentary committees in the United Kingdom, India and New Zealand have already recommended that their governments should introduce measures for the introduction of the metric or decimal system. I would therefore suggest to the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Winters) and to other responsible ministers that they undertake serious studies as to the possibility of changing to the metric system of weights and measures in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to say a few words now about the rise in municipal taxes throughout Canada. In the city of Toronto, municipal property taxes have doubled in the past ten years. Struggling to pay these taxes as well as the cost of other essential services, the home-owner today who is seeking to provide a decent home for his children is, I believe, fighting a losing battle and will continue to do so unless this burden is removed. I hope it may be possible to arrange for such fiscal policies that the cost of education can be borne entirely by the provincial governments, and also, so that the home-owner will be able to deduct property taxes from his federal income tax.

**Mr. Graftey:** You have read our program. That was plank number one.

**Mr. Haidasz:** Mr. Speaker, these are the few remarks I wanted to make in addition to those I made last week. I now wish merely to add that the program of the twenty seventh parliament of Canada as outlined in the Speech from the Throne is both important and heavy. I would therefore urge all hon. members to exercise patience and to direct their attention assiduously to these urgent matters which the government has brought before us in the Speech from the Throne.

**Mr. Herridge:** Would the hon. member permit a question now? I was interested in his reference to the Canada Assistance Plan. He mentioned it would be based on need. Can he explain to the house—I am somewhat illiterate