

In addition, we are deeply indebted to the air forces of Canada and of the United States who have given often heroic service in bringing health aid to isolated communities or in flying their sick to hospital. The air services also of the provincial governments, the Department of Transport, commercial and private air-lines have always given special priority to missions of mercy for Indians and for Eskimos.

The opening of Sioux Lookout Hospital is another evidence of our determination to bring the health of Indians and Eskimos to levels approximating those of other Canadians. The distressing mortality figures, especially for tuberculosis, must continue to be driven downward. I have no doubt that within the next generation the health picture for Canada's native population will be drastically changed for the better. That is the objective that we have set ourselves.

In evidence of the appreciation of the Indian themselves of what this new hospital at Sioux Lookout can do for them, I want to make special mention of the generosity of the Lac Seul Indian Band in donating \$2,800 towards recreational facilities. A radio system with loudspeakers and headphones is being installed in the hospital with this money and a comfort fund has been established.

Dr. Moore and his associates receive full support from Canada's professional health workers. But they need more full time assistants. Let me speak for a moment to young men and women in the health professions: There is a worthwhile field for your efforts in Indian Health Services -- a satisfying and rewarding field. For those who will be stationed in centres such as Sioux Lookout there are the usual amenities of community life. For those who will be located in the more remote settlements there is the special challenge of the job and the magic of the north. Canada is calling more health workers into the Directorate of Indian Health Services. This call, I am confident, will be heard.

CANADA'S GOALS FOR INDIAN HEALTH

It is not surprising that Canada has come around so late to raising health care for Indians to proper levels. This is all part of our growing concern for the cause of health generally. We now recognize that this nation cannot tolerate islands of ill-health. To allow any group to exist below proper health standards imperils the health of all. So, apart from humanitarian motives, it is also good sense to extend our health safeguards to all parts of this country and to all its peoples. We do not want to see the recurrence in Canada of the smallpox epidemic of 1870 in the western plains. We do not want to see another tuberculosis epidemic like the one that killed so many Indians in the west during the quarter century following 1880.

In this country, we have not been backward in our awareness of responsibilities, as citizens of the world, to those in the world less fortunate than ourselves. Here in our own home-land we must not fail to carry out to the full our parallel responsibilities to those who live among us. Our ancestors created special problems for those living in Canada before they came. They brought across the Atlantic diseases against which the natives were defenceless. They brought epidemics that at times threatened to wipe out the native population.