

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

school research amounted to approximately \$15 million.

I know this is not the only answer, but who can wonder at the fact that our medical teachers continue to emigrate? I say the exodus must be stopped. I have pointed out that four medical schools—the hon. member for Simcoe East also pointed this out—are having a hard time to meet proper standards. Surely this is an urgent question and relates to federal assistance to research.

I finish by saying that while our medical schools should re-evaluate their policies—I am not just blaming the government for this, and blame is not something we want to discuss tonight—the federal government should increase greatly its assistance to medical research in Canada. For example, the province of Ontario has a five year plan amounting to \$300 million for the enlargement of existing, and construction of new medical schools. I contend these schools will be mere shells unless we have the teachers to staff them.

Along with the hon. member for Simcoe East, who has led this discussion, I say that excellence of research attracts teachers. The difference between excellence and crisis is realistic federal expenditure. The government at Ottawa must announce a drive—as the hon. member for Simcoe East has often said, a crash program—for medical manpower. I say to this house and to the people of Canada that the crisis is nearer at hand than we think.

It is a sad thing, Mr. Speaker, that when I have put questions like this on the orders of the day they have been ruled out of order just because we were discussing estimates. We were discussing estimates and the Speaker had every right to rule my questions out of order at the time. But because the government did not take up this matter on estimates, I am obliged to bring it up again at this time.

I am sure that many members of parliament in this house feel strongly about this, and have their feelings aroused.

I only hope that questions of this nature are going to occupy this Canadian House of Commons in the days to come. What, Mr. Speaker, could be more serious for this great, young country of ours than a shortage of doctors? I am not saying that there is any blame involved. I should like to say to the government that I believe one, and only one part of the answer is a realistic federal expenditure to our medical institutions for

research in order to rectify this grave problem.

Mrs. Margaret Rideout (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the government has been giving careful study to the Gundy Report as well as to a series of earlier reports concerned with increased federal assistance to the development of people involved in providing medical care.

The announcement of the Prime Minister concerning a health resources fund of \$500 million, which will be put into effect retroactive to January 1, 1966, as soon as the necessary legislation has passed this house, should constitute an important step in this direction. It is being worked out in close consultation with the provinces and institutions concerned. This fund, together with other types of increased federal assistance to universities, such as medical research, will be an important initial step and one that will undoubtedly be reviewed periodically in the light of the results being achieved.

CANADIAN ECONOMY—STEPS TO MEET
INCREASED COST OF LIVING

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, last Monday in this house I asked this question of the Prime Minister to be found on page 2290 of *Hansard*:

In view of the fact that this is consumer week and that the Prime Minister has personally endorsed it, is the right hon. gentleman planning any action this week to check the rising cost of living?

I received the brush-off on that question, and I have received the brush-off on a number of occasions when I have sought to bring attention to the way the living costs in this country are going up.

I, along with a great many other people, am concerned deeply over the lack of interest shown by the government every time this question is raised in the house. Other hon. members have brought it up over and over again, and each time they have been brushed off, and nothing has been done. I want to indicate that this is a very serious problem. The cost of living has reached an all time high in Canada.

Economists say that prices should not rise more than 2 per cent a year. Last year prices in Canada went up by 3.1 per cent. Included in the price rise were items such as food and housing. These are not luxuries. These are the bedrock essentials for families in this