

for all viruses it would cut millions of dollars from our health care costs.

I visited a home the other day, Mr. Speaker, and I should like the minister to listen to this. There were 15 deaths there and none of the patients had been vaccinated. I think the minister should keep that in mind.

The common viruses are A, B, and Victoria. I believe the latter killed about 250,000 people in New Guinea. In the United States they have achieved up to 80 per cent immunity through vaccination. The incubation period is between 12 and 24 hours. It is the scourge of mankind and, as I say, we have never been able to control it. As the minister said, we have got to the point where the only way we can settle this is by total vaccination. With Spanish flu there were 50 million infected and 20 million died. Vaccination would take away some of the fear.

I hope the minister has been in touch with the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) about eggs. I am sure he has and I am sure he will get lots of eggs. He must also have the rooster, however, because the eggs have to be fertilized before the virus is injected. When the virus is drawn off it is killed by formalin and then it is ready to inject.

The minister said today that there would be immunity within two or three weeks, but I want to tell him that I have never known this to be the case with a virus vaccine. He may be right, but I wish he would question that point. In the vaccines we have used to date the two shots are given two months apart, and once a year thereafter.

The minister has taken a step in the right direction but I want to prod him tonight to make it universal and in a hurry. He told us that the vaccine costs only 75 cents per person. Mr. Speaker, there is no way a doctor can collect \$6 for giving the injection when, under OHIP, his fee is perhaps \$3. Even at \$3 or \$4 it is the cheapest insurance we can buy—even if there is not an outbreak.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Rynard) for his comments. Not having the privilege of being a medical doctor myself I always attach a lot of importance to his views. He has had a long experience and expertise in the practice of medicine.

I regret that the hon. member was unavoidably absent yesterday and today when we debated the quarantine bill and discussed the announcement on the vaccination, but I am pleased he could be in the House tonight. I made a point of being here to listen to his views.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lalonde: With regard to the suggestion about mass inoculation, I remind the hon. member that I have acted and my department has acted upon the advice of the national advisory committee which is regrouping the best epidemiologists in the country, and we have tried to get the best scientific advice available in this country. We have decided to follow the recommendation of the national advisory committee to the letter. If it can be established that this advisory committee did not go far enough or was wrong, we will certainly be very happy to review the situation, but in the meantime I obviously must rely on what is considered to be the unanimous opinion of the

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people we consider the most knowledgeable in this field in Canada at the present time.

As I said this afternoon, we are in close touch with United States authorities, the United Kingdom, the World Health Organization, and the centre in London, England, on this subject, and there is to be a special meeting called by the WHO on April 8. Canada will be represented at that meeting, and I am sure we will follow the situation very closely. Any change in the proposed action will be communicated to the House, and particularly to the hon. member with great pleasure.

AGRICULTURE—PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF TRANSPORT SUBSIDY ON FLOUR TO EAST COAST PORTS—ALLEGED CONFLICT IN MINISTER'S STATEMENTS

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, now that the deputy vice regal pen has put the deputy vice regal ink to the interim supply bill—otherwise known as an act for the relief of the Bank of Montreal, Wellington Street division in the city of Ottawa—we may now turn back to a serious state of affairs which will occur unless we in the opposition are able to head it off later this year. That issue is the removal of the flour and grain movement subsidies or rail subsidies under section 272 of the Railway Act. This is not the first time I have raised this matter here. This is probably its second and perhaps third appearance on the late show. I leapfrog with the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) on this important issue. We are the east and west twins trying to co-ordinate efforts by a great number of Canadians on what I think is an important issue because it affects the export life and the port life of this country.

Before the end of the year I hope that we will have persuaded members of parliament from Montreal that—believe it or not—their port is greatly affected by what Bill C-87 proposes. I hope the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster (Mr. Landers) will interest himself in the issue because there are many dozens of jobs in his own port and millions of dollars at stake in the future.

I have the support of my hon. colleagues from the Halifax area. As a matter of fact, they deputed this job to me.

I can tell the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Chrétien), when he brings in his restraint bill, that he has to pilot it through parliament, and it has to be passed before section 272 of the Railway Act is gone and the subsidies are gone. There will be many more than the hon. member for Vegreville and myself who will be taking part in this battle. The minister will know what full scale and total war is all about.

Bill C-87 will affect port life and the flour and grain operations of the three eastern Canadian ports. I pointed out last week, and the hon. member for Vegreville pointed out last night, that the milling industry in Canada and the miller, who was much esteemed in medieval times, are becoming part of the dodo legend because big companies are simply taking over their operations, and small milling operations are starting to dry up in Canada.

The measure which is proposed by the government will not do anything to reverse that rather tragic process. However, as I say, until the repeal of section 272 of the Railway Act, the subsidies will remain. I ventured to suggest to the