

We are inclined sometimes to be discouraged by the limitations in our present knowledge of the secrets of cancer's wild and disordered growth. But the real tragedy of cancer is that knowledge and skills now exist and that facilities like this are now available for many people who delay seeing their physicians until it is too late. It is said that early and accurate diagnosis is still our most important weapon in the fight against cancer. It is, therefore, most encouraging that, year by year, with greater public awareness of the problem, better diagnostic facilities and more trained workers, our chances of diagnosing cancer in the early and more manageable stages are steadily improving.

I have no doubt that in the years ahead Canada will find new weapons to detect, to treat and to defeat cancer. Your plans for a new Centre, of which this clinic is the forerunner, represent a great step forward. I am proud that the Federal Government has a significant share in its establishment. And so, for the men and women who will staff this clinic, may I recall words recently used by one of the world's leading cancer experts, Sir Stanford Cade:

"To give courage to those who need it  
to restore the desire for life to those  
who have abandoned it, and with our  
skill to heal disease or to check its  
course."

This, then, is your task -- your duty -- and your privilege.

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