

*Supply—Health and Welfare*

In the initial work in the experimental stage the province of Ontario contributed the services of the Connaught laboratories. We should be proud of the research ability of our scientific people. We are proud of the care that was taken at the Connaught laboratories in the production of a serum that was safe.

So far as the Department of National Health and Welfare is concerned, I must say that this matter was well handled. When we were in Mexico we received reports of the first inoculations with the serum in places other than Canada, and we were fearful of some of the results. When we found later that the provincial departments of health and the Department of National Health and Welfare had checked and double-checked and produced for the use of the children of Canada a serum that was safe, we were proud of our people in Canada and the job they had done in this regard.

I do wish to point out that the Connaught laboratories played a large part in the initial production of the vaccine through the production of medium 199, and from there on the various departments of health and the Department of National Health and Welfare saw to it that a product that was safe was produced for administration to our children. Therefore Canadian mothers and fathers can look with a great deal of satisfaction on the co-operation and care displayed in producing a safe serum.

I hope that in the discussion of the estimates of this department nothing will be said in criticism of that program that might lead the mothers and fathers of young children to have any doubt about the use or efficacy of the serum as a preventive agent with respect to a disease that formerly, as I said, struck terror into their hearts.

On looking over the casualty lists, if I may call them that, the lists of causes of death for the past year, I again note that heart conditions and cardiovascular disease stand very high, along with cancer. It is to be expected, now that man's span of life has been extended, that the percentages for these two causes of death would grow. One might put it this way. There is a time limit on age, and people will ultimately die of some cause. What usually breaks down is the cardiovascular system. We must realize also that the increased percentage of cancer does not mean the disease is increasing. As a result of longer life we may have more cases of that disease, and with better systems of diagnosis we probably find more cases.

I again make my appeal to the minister that having seen what can be accomplished

by the Salk vaccine, and with our pride in Canadian scientists and their ability, every worthy project in the line of investigation or research into cancer or coronary trouble with which the minister comes in contact should be given every incentive. I feel that Canadian scientists have shown an ability to cope with these things, and I feel they may be among the first to discover a cure for these diseases.

Speaking of the causes of death—and this one does not apply to the minister's department but I mentioned it last year—I believe this government and this house could do something to cut down the increasing number of highway accidents which are listed as one of the causes of death. If anything can be done through pressure on the government or even through legislation passed in this house to cut down this cause of death, we should certainly do it.

I have brought the need for beds for chronic invalids to the minister's attention before. Many of these chronic invalids are old people, and I assure the minister it is most difficult now to obtain beds for people with chronic disease. You find these people in the wards of the hospitals where they must receive care, but at the same time beds are being filled that might well be used for acute cases.

I mention these other matters very briefly. There is the question of the shortage of nurses that has been before us for years. That shortage usually amounts to 10,000 to 12,000. Every incentive should be given to induce young women to go into this profession. We do need nurses to staff our hospitals if we are going to give people adequate care.

In closing, sir, I wish to mention the increasing incidence of mental disease. I point out again that more beds are occupied by these unfortunate people alone than are occupied by those suffering from any other form of disease. Unfortunately the incidence of this disease is increasing. Everything should be done to help in the establishment of psychiatric wards in our big city hospitals where these people may be treated on a short-term basis without sending them to the mental institutions. I think this is essential, because treatment in the beginning is very important. I might mention also the shortage of trained personnel, psychiatrists and male and female nurses who are trained in psychiatric nursing. I believe this is one of the greatest problems that is facing us at the present time.

Possibly we may have a further discussion when this matter comes up in connection with other items of the estimates. I am pointing this out to the minister as one of the matters that we should consider very seriously. When