

*Post Office Act*

Secondly, I should like to reinforce what has already been said about scientific journals in this country. Not only will they be subject to increases, the same as all second class mail, but apparently the privilege of second class mail which, so far as the *Canadian Medical Journal* is concerned has been accorded since 1911, will be taken away from them. There are at least 56 journals that fall into this category. They are only of interest to people in various professions to whom they are sent. As the minister stated, magazines are in general under intense competition from the United States journals. This competition exists perhaps to an even greater extent in the scientific world. Canadians spend quite a large amount on medical and scientific work and bursaries. In medical research alone the bursaries for the coming year amount to approximately \$26 million. The final production of all these people working on various research projects is usually a paper of a scientific nature. Often the waiting list for the publication in U.S. and other journals of papers prepared by these people is three or four years, at least in the field with which I am familiar.

The *Canadian Medical Journal* is already making plans to reduce its publication by half. Many of these journals have to reduce the outflow, and the area in which our research people can project their views. If there was ever any indication of a necessity for a subsidy in the mails, surely it is in this area because television does not publish a scientific paper or a new article. It is most important that we give as much help to our scientists as possible. Without the dissemination of knowledge, much of the scientific work for which we have already paid will be lost, because unless a scientist can publish his paper in a journal which has a scientific audience it is of little value to anyone.

Another thing which I would like to say is that we might consider closing down our scientific journals in Canada because the United States has so many of them. There is such a vast outpouring of scientific knowledge in the United States that it would overwhelm us. However, I would like to point out that many of the scientific journals are published in both English and French, while the United States journals are only published in English. While it might be said that much of our scientific knowledge for the French speaking people in this country could be garnered from France, we do have to recognize that science in western Europe is somewhat different from

[Mr. Ritchie.]

science in North America. The emphasis is different, and if we closed down our journals we would be much the poorer for it. I make a very strong plea to the Postmaster General that if we ever needed a subsidy it is in the scientific field. He should seriously consider this.

**Mr. Kierans:** Mr. Chairman, I have listened with a great deal of interest to the suggestion which has come from the last speaker and from many others before him. I think we have to accept the fact that it is generally considered that statutory rates should be limited to publications which contain news or articles of general interest to the public. This is set out in one of the clauses in the bill, Mr. Chairman. The general public includes those concerned in religious, scientific, literary and educational fields. However, another consideration must be taken into account here. Clause 11 (1) (c) provides that—

● (10:30 p.m.)

—in the case of a publication described in paragraph (b) or (c), it is published primarily for the benefit of the members of a particular profession—

One of the hon. members who spoke is a doctor. He has been an economist and subscribes to the professional economists journal. I imagine the hon. member for Hillsborough also subscribes, because it is a sister journal. The actual cost to that quarterly as a result of this increase will be roughly 3½ cents per issue per subscriber. I do not know whether the association will raise our membership due by \$1 to cover what, in effect, will be an increase of about 14 cents a year, but I imagine that the hon. member for Hillsborough—certainly I will—will continue to be a member.

What we are trying to do, Mr. Chairman, is to restrict subsidization by the people of Canada of publications that are of general interest. I have every sympathy for these journals and also for the medical journal. The medical journal may have to increase its costs by something in the order of \$1 per year per member as a result of this rate increase, and I am sure the doctors can well afford the difference. If the journal is what the hon. member said it was, of medico-scientific value, then it is in the doctors own interests to subscribe to it.

I do not think doctors would refuse to subscribe to the journal, Mr. Chairman, because the Post Office Department suddenly demanded a reasonable return—nowhere near