

Supply—Industry

The hon. member for Simcoe East will later touch upon another subject, namely the question of medical research. Suffice it for me to say that it is my opinion we are not doing enough in this regard. The government has increased grants in respect of medical research, and I congratulate the minister. However, I foresee a serious shortage of doctors in this country because we are not supporting medical research to the extent we should. This means we lack a sufficient number of teachers, and as a result we are not turning out enough doctors. This is a continuing and vicious circle.

I am sure the hon. member for Simcoe East will point out in great detail that medical research is one thing we must concentrate upon if we are to avoid a serious doctor shortage in this country. We must do something about medical personnel in this country independently of medicare considerations. In this regard, we must increase our aid to scientific medical research as a first step. Without going into great detail, I seriously doubt whether these estimates provide a sufficient amount.

It was interesting to hear the minister's remarks relating to the research secretariat and council. Obviously, this is a step forward. After analysing the increased amounts allocated to which he referred let me say this: No matter how we look at it, and no matter how we discuss percentage increases or total increases, the facts of life indicate that in the past year for every dollar spent in Canada per scientist the United States spend \$10 to \$15 and the United Kingdom spends \$5. I am not suggesting we are not going forward, but we certainly must encourage the minister to support the activities of the research secretariat and council and to authorize more funds.

It will be extremely interesting to note the minister's proposal in relation to a new general incentive program. It is everybody's hope, including all the members of the opposition, that this program will really work.

Yesterday I did not notice that the Speaker was still in the chair, and was not aware that certain arrangements had been made between house leaders. At that time I rose in the house to make this speech. Perhaps my mind had been diverted to matters outside of this chamber, and I did not know quite what was going on. I did get up to make a speech on interim supply thinking we were dealing with the estimates. At that time I mentioned one other subject, namely a matter relating to Canadian-United States relations, which was so

[Mr. Graftey.]

ably referred to by the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

I hope I can paraphrase the minister correctly. He said that we should be doing something that we have not been doing often enough, namely paying attention in Canada to selectivity and specialization relating to our economic legislative and social programs. I think I know what he meant. Too many of our decisions are overly affected by our great neighbour to the south which enjoys the highest standard of living the world has ever known. The dictates of common sense and natural events indicate that we must enter into certain economic and social programs. However, I personally feel that we sometimes try to keep up with the Joneses by entering into economic and social programs in which we should not be involved. I feel that the remarks of the Minister of Trade and Commerce regarding the necessity for the Canadian government and the private sector of this country to pay more attention to the selectivity and specialization of our activities were terribly important. That is why I feel the role of scientific research, for which the Minister of Industry is responsible, is a very important part of these general considerations.

Let me continue briefly by saying this: I do not intend to become argumentative on this point, but I think we should be clear about the situation. No matter what the Minister of Finance says, there are certain aspects of our economic situation which indicate that the government has to cut back in order to curb inflation. The government must look to its blue book, of expenditures so to speak. I know what the situation is as a result of my experience as parliamentary secretary to the minister of finance. The hon. member for Carleton informed me that when the government has to cut back expenditures, things become very difficult. This is true, because many expenditures are statutory and others realistically cannot be cut back. As a result, one must look at the small areas in order to make savings.

The minister has indicated that in order to cut back government expenditure to combat inflation we will have to curb research expenditures. The Minister of Finance has told us that these cutbacks are not serious, but it is my suspicion that if the government did not follow this policy to combat inflation the increase in research expenditure would have been greater than it is. Some of these short-term measures now being used to combat inflation are too little and too late. We are