

This aging of our population has led to a complete re-orientation of our public health thinking. A whole new field of medical science known as "geriatrics" has been developed to deal exclusively with the health problems of the aged. And here, I might just add that health is only one aspect of the problem of an aging population. We must also give thought to all the questions of housing, employment, the productive use of leisure time and, of course, the provision of adequate financial security.

(b) Increased Emphasis on Prevention:

A second significant trend in present public health thinking is the increased emphasis now being placed on prevention. More and more, medicine and public health are concerned with protecting rather than restoring health. All across the country greater attention is being given to the health care of our children. Immunization is becoming more widespread. Preventive dentistry, school health services, child guidance clinics and all the other preventive services aimed at the early discovery of disabilities in the growing child are receiving increased professional and public support.

Gradually public health authorities and private practitioners alike are coming to recognize that it is impossible to divorce care of illness on the one hand from prevention of disease and the promotion of health on the other.

I have spoken with some enthusiasm of Canada's health progress in this century. I hope no one will interpret this as complacency. We must not be content with present progress but forever eager to push ahead towards new horizons. In the words of the late Dr. Joseph W. Mountin, one of North America's most distinguished public health authorities:

"There are many areas of unfinished business in public health -- and even more important, many which are not yet started."

In the years ahead public health officials and professional and voluntary health workers alike, must rededicate themselves to the task of cleaning up this unfinished business and of tackling problems too long neglected. There are still many challenges to be met and overcome. We have yet to prove the effectiveness of new drugs, new therapies and new techniques. We have yet to find an effective cure for those great cripplers, arthritis and rheumatism. We have yet to unlock the secrets of cancer's wild and disordered growth. We have yet to take the final steps in solving the problem of sharing the costs of illness.

Today, we stand impatient on the threshold of many promising opportunities to enlarge the enjoyment of life, to restrict disease and to reinforce health -- not only here in Canada but in less fortunate lands that because of hunger, poverty and disease, lag generations and centuries behind the common forward march of humanity.

All progress is threatened today by the ever-present possibility of world conflict. We are forced to invest time, talent, and productive energy in building up our defences to safeguard national security. Through patient international