These combined efforts for improving health were
instrumental in reducing general morbidity, in lowering the
mortality from tuberculosis and generally in raising health
standards and lengthening the span of life. In short, they
have meant a healthier, happier, more productive nation.

Canada's striking success in its use of the Salk
vaccine last year is another dramatic example of the National
Health Program in operation. This program, like so many
activities supported under the grants, has only been possible
because of the co-operation of every person, both in government
and private organizations, who is concerned with the development
of sound public health practice in Canada. The federal grants
have provided a stimulus which cannot be measured in economic
terms. Their history is notable for the keen interest with
which they were received and the co-operative way in which
all agencies involved have worked together to provide the
maximum benefits for the money spent.

The fact that we are able now to discuss health
insurance problems with full knowledge of the basic facts
is in no small measures due to the efforts of the provincial
health survey teams who examined and assessed the health
resources of the nation. Let me at this point mention also
the additional important information gathered through our
co-operative effort known to all of us as the Canadian
Sickness Survey. These studies and investigations permit
us now to look into the future with more clarity and put
our plans on a more solid foundation.

The administrators of the grants program, both
federal and provincial, have been alert to the many new
developments and possibilities which progress in medicine
and public health has placed at their disposal. The
flexible structure of the program, with its yearly review
of progress and trends, has enabled the provincial and federal
governments together to make available with the least
possible delay the benefits of this progress -- and to
make it available to many thousands who might not other-wise
have benefited from it.

S/A