

cancer, which can be prevented by the cessation of smoking.

What we have learned recently, and part of what this Bill attempts to address, are the results of involuntary smoking, in other words, inhaling second-hand smoke. More and more we see studies which indicate that this is a hazard, both to the person who does not smoke but who inhales the smoke and perhaps to women who are pregnant, to their foetus, and has many severe consequences beyond just those for the smoker themselves.

Last week, the Environmental Protection Agency in the United States reported that environmental tobacco smoke is one of the greatest health hazards to indoor pollution. Therefore the kinds of recommendations that are made in this Bill to address adequate ventilation to ensure that it is done in a way that does not contaminate further the air where there is access to smoking rooms, to protect those employees who work in areas where there may be smoking, and to protect those employees, such as those on aircraft, who have long been exposed to second-hand smoke and so on are welcome. In that sense we are very pleased to see this Bill. We know that there are about 32,000 chemical agents in tobacco smoke and over 50 of them have been identified as likely carcinogens. It would be very difficult not to support anything that would reduce this risk to Canadians.

• (1640)

I listened carefully to the Hon. Member who spoke about the concerns of his constituents who are tobacco farmers. One of the important facts to recognize in this case is that the responsibility of the Government in enacting legislation like this, which I believe is responsible legislation to protect the health of Canadians, is to also make sure that the burden for this kind of good legislation does not rest on the workers and farmers. The Government should ensure that adjustments are made for workers and farmers in this industry. That is the responsible way to deal with this type of positive legislation.

I hope the Government will consider those kinds of adjustments so that the workers and the farmers do not bear the economic burden of making these real and positive changes.

Non-smokers' Health Act

Finally I want to give credit to a former New Democratic Member who first brought this to the House. Lynn McDonald, the former Member for Broadview—Greenwood, worked very hard on this issue. Through her determination and work within her own New Democratic caucus, through the committee and the House, and the work she did with her private Member's Bill, she deserves a lot of credit for the legacy she left not just to this House and Parliament but to Canadians as a whole. We in the New Democratic Party support this legislation.

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I too want to rise briefly and express my support for the legislation before us. It is rather ironic that we are dealing with a Bill to amend the Non-smokers' Health Act on the same day that we learned of the continuing, persistent and unwanted lobbying of the kind we heard about this afternoon during Question Period with respect to a former highly-placed Conservative, Bill Neville, doing everything he can to prevent health warnings from being published predominately on cigarette packages.

I had an opportunity to work on the committee that originally introduced the Non-smokers' Health Act, for which I too would like to give credit to the former Member for Broadview—Greenwood, as well as for Bill C-51 in respect of smoking more specifically. We have heard expressions of concern from various communities and groups, including the Non-Smokers' Rights Association and the Canadian Medical Association. Mr. Douglas Geekie, who was very instrumental in getting this issue brought to the fore, is watching this legislation very closely.

We also heard from people whose livelihoods were directly affected. We heard from the Haldimand—Norfolk Tobacco Producers' Association who had very specific concerns about programs that the Government is ignoring. That was alluded to by my hon. friend, the Hon. Member for Haldimand—Norfolk (Mr. Speller).

It seems that only one association, the Tobacco Council, came to the committee to try to convince us that smoking does not cause cancer. Every other group and organization, including the tobacco producers and the Town of Haldimand and the regional representatives from that area were quite forthcoming with the committee and basically pointed out that if they had known 40 or 50 years ago what they now know about the potential