

*Non-smokers' Health Act*

now, to make sure that they follow through with this so that it does not become a future concern.

It is a relief to see that the Government is finally taking steps to make the Non-smokers' Health Act law, given the serious effect of smoking on health.

Smoking poses a health hazard for all Canadians, not only for adults, not only for children, but equally for the unborn.

As noted in the Library of Parliament paper entitled "Tobacco Smoking", smoking during pregnancy has been found to retard the growth of the unborn child and to lead to increased risks of stillbirth, neonatal death and low birth weight. Smoking while pregnant also leads to congenital malformations and can have long term effects on the child, such as mental retardation or cerebral palsy.

The 1979 U.S. Surgeon General's report linked smoking with sudden infant death syndrome. The 1980 report surveyed studies of men and women suggesting that cigarette smoking may impair fertility.

There is a great cause for concern about the prevalence of cigarette smoking among children and adolescents because nicotine inhibits physical as well as intellectual growth, is addictive and causes long term health risks.

Studies show that the risk of coronary disease, stroke and lung cancer are substantially higher for cigarette smokers than for non-smokers.

According to the report of the Surgeon General on the health consequences of smoking, smoking is responsible for an estimated 30 per cent of all cancer deaths, including 87 per cent of lung cancer, the leading cause of cancer mortality; 21 per cent of deaths from coronary heart disease; 18 per cent of stroke deaths; and 82 per cent of deaths from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Among young men who smoke two or more packs of cigarettes a day, the risk of heart attack is more than seven times higher than for non-smokers. The risk of heart attack for women under 50 is 10 times greater than for non-smokers of the same age group.

The longer a person smokes and the more cigarettes one smokes, the higher the risk of contracting lung cancer.

Data reported in the *U.S. Congressional Quarterly*, March 24, 1989 editorial research report shows that the average male smoker is 22 times more likely to die from lung cancer than a non-smoker.

Research also links cigarette smoking with increased risk of chronic bronchitis, emphysema, cancer of the mouth, larynx, oesophagus, bladder and pancreas. Peptic ulcers are also more common among smokers.

I would also like to point out that nicotine is addictive, which is something tobacco manufacturers attempt to deny. However, the addictive nature of tobacco cannot be denied. Indeed, former U.S. Surgeon General Koop announced in the spring of 1988 that nicotine is more addictive than heroin.

Dr. Ronald Davis, director of the office on smoking and health at the Centres for Disease Control in Maryland stated: "—the best piece of evidence that smoking is an addiction is that 80 per cent of smokers say they would like to quit but can't do so."

The tobacco industry has protested that cigarette addiction is like other ingrained habits, like watching television or eating cookies.

The U.S. Tobacco Institute has ridiculed the concept of a physical withdrawal from nicotine, stating: "Any feeling persons might have upon giving up smoking are those that would be expected when one is frustrated by giving up any desired activity."

This is obviously the attempt of industry to twist facts to suit their own vested interests and I would hope that Governments would recognize and condemn this.

Our Government has not been able to do this. As I will discuss in more detail at the end of my speech, this Government bent to the will of the tobacco industry when the tobacco industry lobbied to nullify the requirement that cigarette packages include the warning that tobacco is addictive. This Government seems more intent on appeasing the industry than on safeguarding the health of Canadian citizens. This is unacceptable, especially when the addictive nature of nicotine is well documented.

As Dr. Jack Henningfield, scientific editor of the Surgeon General's 1988 nicotine addiction report stated, when nicotine withdrawal is compared with withdrawal from an array of drugs, it is almost similar to withdrawal to cocaine, but it is worse.