

Mr. CHEVALIER: Three or four years ago we distributed a clinical memorandum on poisons which had been made up by the United States food and drug people. We distributed this to all poison control centres in Canada. There is now a new book published in the last two or three months and we are considering distributing it to all the poison control centres. The people I have spoken to in poison control centres say this is a very useful book. I was speaking to Dr. Hillman the other day. She is the pediatrician in charge of the out-patients division of the Montreal Children's hospital. She said: "When are you getting the next copy of this?". Incidentally, one of the most knowledgeable persons in the field of poison control today as regards children particularly is Dr. Hillman. She has a much deeper knowledge of the detail of this than we have and on a much broader basis because she is concerned with all poisons.

Mr. WILLOUGHBY: But there is no circular being sent to these centres. I realize these books are available. Is there any circulating of these new products before the booklet comes out?

Mr. JACKSON: The great majority of the products fortunately are covered by this information centre of the food and drug directorate which we think has been very effective in the past within the limits of its resources. These resources have expanded over the past year, and it is much more effective than it was in the past year. I would prefer to have a representative of the department itself describe in detail to you the process they have of getting the information from the outside which they send out to the provinces. I understand they send it to the provinces who in turn distribute it to the hospitals; so there is an extra link there.

Mr. MARCOUX: Do the individual companies, or does your association, contribute financially to this including the poison control centres? Would it not be desirable that a small percentage of the gross revenue coming to the companies be given to combat the ill effects.

Mr. JACKSON: There are hundreds of millions of dollars of potentially poisonous chemicals which are distributed in Canada every year. Of that amount, this industry was responsible for about \$37 million or \$38 million last year.

The question is whether or not one small segment of the total area of manufacturing production in the field of potential poisons should be contributing funds to poison control centres. If the poison control centre system were narrowed down so we had only a few really effective poison control centres I feel the industry as a whole would be in a much better position to evaluate the situation. But, if industry now contributed to 40 or 50 control centres, in any hospitals you want to name across the country, it would be a terribly expensive proposition and would not improve the situation at all.

Mr. CHEVALIER: May I make one comment in that connection; companies do contribute financially in developing the information on these materials which they submit to the food and drug people and, as you know, there is quite a cost involved in the accumulation of the necessary data.

Mr. MARCOUX: Do you contribute in any way to the education of our trained personnel; I am referring to technical aid, foundations, grants, scholarships and so on? As you know, many companies do give scholarships and grants to specialists in different fields.

Mr. JACKSON; I am sure there are funds made available.

Mr. ENNS: There are funds made available through grants to universities but largely because this basic work is done in the United States this occurs in the United States rather than Canada. To the best of my knowledge, I cannot quote a specific instance where such funds are made available to poison control centres in Canada.