

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

minister about the connection between smoking and lung cancer, one causing the other. The minister himself recently announced, after an investigation by Canadian Facts Ltd., that more than a million Canadian smokers had succeeded in giving up tobacco and this, I suppose, as a result of a campaign undertaken in the United States and Great Britain—but not in Canada—by the respective governments. What is most unfortunate is to find that the same investigation has shown that more than 300 young Canadians get into the habit of smoking each day, and we know that when they have fallen into the habit, they can hardly give it up. The Parliament of Canada should follow the example of Great Britain and the United States and pass a motion unanimously asking the government to take the necessary measures—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member—

Mr. Yanakis: —to cope with lung cancer due to smoking.

[*English*]

Mrs. Margaret Rideout (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): The question from the hon. member for Berthier-Maskinongé-Delanaudière (Mr. Yanakis) recorded in the House of Commons *Hansard*, page 13079, for February 15, 1967, has been noted with a good deal of interest by the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Basically it refers to requiring cigarette manufacturers to specify on packages of cigarettes the following statement, which is also used in the United States:

Caution: Cigarette smoking may be hazardous to your health.

There is also reference to the elimination of misleading advertising and to the implementation specifically of the hon. member's private Bill No. C-130, to amend the Tobacco Restraint Act.

The fundamental approach of the Department of National Health and Welfare in dealing with the serious health hazards of cigarette smoking, which include heart disease, lung cancer and chronic lung disease, is to discourage cigarette smoking by Canadians. Emphasis has been placed on a program of health education and research. It might well be that the labelling of packages in a particular way with a cautionary note might be a

useful adjunct to health education, but the effectiveness of this procedure and its full implications have not yet been clearly established. For example, it is necessary to consider the use of a caution regarding one harmful practice such as cigarette smoking in relation to the use of other hazardous substances, such as alcohol.

We are watching with great interest the results that may be ascribed to the use of this warning on packages of cigarettes in the United States. The feasibility of legislation in Canada for the control of cigarette advertising and for warning labels on cigarette packages is a matter of study in my department at the present time.

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Mr. Lawrence E. Kindt (Macleod): I rise on a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I do not see the Secretary of State in her seat and I do not propose to say anything to the parliamentary secretary. This is too important a matter for the parliamentary secretary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There can be no point of order.

Mr. Kindt: It is a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member kindly resume his seat. It is elementary that hon. members should resume their seats when the Speaker has the floor. I bring to the attention of the hon. member that the rules provide that either the minister or his parliamentary secretary should be here. I assume that is why the parliamentary secretary is here at this time.

Mr. Kindt: I rose on a point of privilege, sir. I said this morning that I wanted to be on the late show, provided the minister was here, and I wrote a letter to that effect to the Clerk. If the minister did not intend to be here, the Clerk should have informed me. I have wasted an hour or so. Who is running this show? Is it the Clerk, or is it the Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I invite the hon. member to resume his seat. This house is now adjourned.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.28 p.m.