

Supply

way and where it is taking place and exactly what is happening. This is where we are falling down.

The Americans were aware of this and about five years ago they established a study to try to research that in a more effective way. Quite recently in Canada, the Department of National Health and Welfare has attempted to do that as well. In collaboration with the Atomic Energy Control Board it has established what it proposes as a program known as the National Uranium Tissue Registry. This program, Mr. Speaker, was developed and refined by officials in National Health and Welfare and presented and approved by officials also in AECB. It was then presented to the senior people in both management and labour in our uranium industry. It is my understanding that that program received rather good support from management and they felt this was something they should look at more closely and support.

The *Globe and Mail* issue of January 9 carries a headline on page 1 which says: "Mining union angered by request for organs for study on radiation". This certainly gave me cause for concern. The article goes on to quote from the person they call the specialist, a Mr. Ed Vance, who is stated in this article to be a health and safety specialist with the United Steelworkers of America in Elliot Lake. The paper quotes him as saying:

"When they asked for our urine for analysis, we co-operated. When they asked for our sputum for analysis, we co-operated. Now they say, 'We want your bodies, too.'"

Interpreting what that union official is saying there, Mr. Speaker, causes me some dismay. He seems to be suggesting that this is some new and unreasonable demand on members of the union. I would hope that many union members would feel rather upset that one of their senior officials, described as a specialist, would attack that sort of request which has been made. Anyone who is familiar with the advance of medical science realizes that one of the main reasons we have advances in medical science is that over the decades of modern medicine we have been able to correlate, with the co-operation of society, the findings at post-mortem with the clinical findings before death. It is because of the ability to do that that we have had many advances in the scientific and particularly the medical field. I am rather appalled to think that a man who is a specialist with a union in the area of health and safety has failed to understand and recognize the importance of that. The program is being presented by Health and Welfare and AECB. All that the program is requesting is that they, as miners, submit themselves to the very same request to which patients are submitted day after day in various hospitals across the country.

There is no hospital in the country, Mr. Speaker, that can be fully accredited if it does not have a certain percentage of its deaths submitted to autopsy or post-mortem examination. It is a routine almost. I have had the unhappy experience, as is mentioned in this article in the *Globe and Mail*, of having to go to the relatives of a patient who had died of some relatively obscure disease where it was very important, scientifically and medically, to have a chance to observe what had actually transpired in a particular organ in the deceased body. Usually

one gets very full co-operation from those relatives. They feel that the deceased person would want to do anything he or she could do to advance medical knowledge. In the medical profession we tend to get a good response to that.

When I see somebody who is speaking on behalf of one of the unions saying this it really appals me because I cannot believe that that person is speaking for the average man and woman who belongs to that union. I see that two or three of my colleagues in the NDP are ready to speak. I would hope that one of them would address this problem when he gets up to speak in a few minutes.

I would like to quote something else from this same article in the *Globe and Mail*, Mr. Speaker, to justify the necessity for having this kind of program put into effect. The *Globe and Mail* is quoting an AECB official by the name of Mr. Aladar Dory as saying:

"Existing data on the deposition and distribution of uranium in humans are not very extensive."

That is the case, Mr. Speaker. That is why it is so important that all of us as Canadians who are concerned about this problem co-operate in efforts like this to try to expand the existing knowledge of the effects on the various organs of the body of the ingestion of that dust, whether by mouth, into the gastrointestinal tract or by air into the lungs. We can then begin to co-relate what we find in the laboratory findings on the body fluids with what actually happens in the body tissues and what we find in the body tissues at the time of death.

● (1640)

I want to touch on the medical application to the other components of this motion. One of them concerns transportation. I believe one can safely say that there are very few implications medically on transportation. It is true that if some container of radioactive material falls from a truck it will present a hazard, but that is human error and will happen no matter how careful we are. There will always be some human error from time to time. Furthermore, I understand that this question has been researched quite thoroughly in the past by the Bayda Committee of Saskatchewan and the Bates Commission in British Columbia.

Finally, I would like to deal with the medical implications of wastes and waste hazards which exist in the deposition of waste products. I think we are very fortunate in Canada to have our type of Candu nuclear reactor. The volume of wastes in Canada, to my knowledge, is relatively small from that particular operation when compared with other nuclear operations. Therefore, the actual mechanics of trying to dispose of large volumes is not such a problem. However, the problem of safely disposing waste, however small the quantity, still exists. I am convinced that our researchers at AECL are addressing this issue quite intensively.

Some of us have had occasion to visit the operations at Chalk River and Deep River. I am convinced that they are addressing these problems as best they can. I see the Member for Edmonton East (Mr. Yurko) here. He would be very knowledgeable about this subject and I think he would agree