

## STOP-SMOKING GRANT

The Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. John Munro, has announced an immediate 100 per cent increase in the budget of his Department's Smoking and Health Program.

"The Smoking and Health Program will now have an annual budget of \$350,000 as opposed to the previous \$173,000," Mr. Munro said. "This will allow for expanded research and education activities."

The Minister said that the increase indicated the importance his Department attaches to smoking and its hazards to health. He said he had been encouraged by proposals recently presented by the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council.

"I have read with interest the decision of the tobacco manufacturers to take certain steps in regard to the dangers of cigarette-smoking," Mr. Munro declared. "I look upon them as worthwhile interim measures pending further Parliamentary consideration of Bill C-248, legislation affecting the promotion and sale of cigarette products."

"One of the manufacturers' proposals pleases me particularly. It is their decision to end broadcasting advertising January 1, 1972. That initiative, however, does not reduce the urgency of taking further steps to deal with this serious health problem."

The Minister said he was pleased to note that the tobacco companies agreed in principle with the use of a warning on cigarette packages.

"However," he added, "it would be most desirable in my view to use the warning, 'Danger to health increases with amount smoked. Avoid inhaling', and the statement of tar and nicotine levels proposed in Bill C-248. I believe both of these are key steps in helping smokers to reduce the hazards and I hope the companies will give the most serious consideration to their use."

### AIM OF NEW BILL

The Health Minister explained that Bill C-248 is designed to help the cigarette-smoker in a number of ways. It seeks:

- (a) a circumferential line on cigarettes to encourage smokers to throw away long butts;
- (b) a statement of tar and nicotine levels on packages;
- (c) a statement, "Warning - danger to health increases with amount smoked. Avoid inhaling", on packages;
- (d) maximum levels of tar and nicotine.

Mr. Munro stated: "The tar and nicotine maximums proposed by the manufacturers provide an effective ceiling to prevent introduction of a particularly high-level cigarette. It should be noted, however, that the dry method of measuring tar, which they are using, gives readings that are lower than the wet method used in departmental testing at the University of Waterloo.

"Consequently the 22-milligram ceiling in the manufacturers' proposals is about the same as 24 milligrams in the Department's tables. Few cigarettes produced by the Council members exceeded that level in the August 1971 report of the Department.

"As well," the Minister added, "the highest recorded nicotine level in August was 1.5 milligrams. The maximum proposed by the manufacturers is actually greater, 1.6."

Mr. Munro said that the initiatives of the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council showed their common concern with the problem of cigarette-smoking and its hazards to health.

## WHEAT TO CHINA

The sale of 500,000 long tons of wheat by the Canadian Wheat Board to the People's Republic of China was announced in the House of Commons recently by Mr. Otto Lang, the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board.

The contract which allows for a tolerance of 5 per cent more or less of the stated quantity, involves a maximum of 19.6 million bushels. This is in addition to the contract for 98 million bushels negotiated in Peking last October. When delivery is completed, exports of Canadian wheat to China will total 117.6 million bushels in the present calendar year, Mr. Lang said.

In tabling the Wheat Board press release that announced the sale, Mr. Lang said credit terms were made possible under a guarantee to the Canadian Wheat Board by the Federal Government.

Grades to be shipped under the new contract are No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4 Northern Wheat. All shipments will be from West Coast ports, beginning within the next few weeks and continuing for a period of three months.

The terms of the sale are the same as in previous contracts with the People's Republic of China, which involve payment of 25 percent cash when each vessel is loaded and the balance to be paid with interest within 18 months.

## CANADA'S NORTH AMERICAN ECONOMIC DIMENSION

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you face. The strength of the U.S. economy is of vital importance to Canada and to the world at large. We share many of your concerns and objectives: the need for early rectification of unrealistic exchange rates; the need for significant liberalization of trade and agricultural policies in Europe and Japan, particularly at a time when Britain and other countries are about to enter the European Economic Community. Indeed, Canada is even more seriously affected by some of these events than the U.S. (The