

find fault with the C.B.C., just as there are faults everywhere, we must say that the recent appearance of Mr. Vachon on television, when he stated that he was a member of the Communist party, was not the intended—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

HEALTH AND WELFARE—REQUEST FOR
HEALTH WARNING ON CIGARETTE
PACKAGES

Mr. Antonio Yanakis (Berthier-Maskinongé-Delanaudière): Mr. Speaker, last week, following the publication of the report by the Department of National Health and Welfare, I asked the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen) whether his department intended to give priority to Bill No. C-130, which I introduced at the start of the session, and which would compel tobacco companies to place a warning on cigarette packages to the effect that smoking may be injurious to health; by so doing, deceitful publicity about tobacco would be limited.

In the very first place, Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate doctors and psychologists who made contributions to that report, as well as the officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs, who helped with the questionnaires and necessary experiments.

Mr. Speaker, that report, which contains more than 140 pages, is the result of 12 years of research and experiments. After reading it, I can only congratulate the minister and his officials for the seriousness with which it was done and I suggest that it deserves particular attention by the minister, mainly in the light of the following excerpt from the foreword:

[English]

The outstanding finding of this study is that cigarette smokers compared to non-smokers had excessive mortality, particularly from heart disease, lung cancer, bronchitis and emphysema. This is consistent with findings of other related studies. These findings are compelling reasons to continue and develop measures to reduce or eliminate the hazard to health attributable to smoking.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I feel that this report has become public. I feel that it would be a serious mistake to ignore it, particularly in view of so many statements made and polls taken by teachers of medical science, psychologists, surgeons and others.

The possible danger of cigarette smoking was stressed in a report prepared by the public health service and submitted to the American Cancer Society.

According to that report, based on a poll taken between July 1964 and July 1965 and covering 42,000 American families:

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—Americans over 17 suffered from 12 million more various chronic ailments than if they had not smoked.

—Americans spent 900,000 more days in bed than if they had not smoked.

—Among smokers 300,000 coronary cases, 1,000,000 cases of bronchitis or emphysema and 1,000,000 cases of peptic ulcers were noted.

—The loss from sick leave due to the effects of cigarette smoking amounts to millions of dollars.

The report states on the other hand that the total cigarette consumption has kept on increasing but that it is due to the increase in population only, each American smoking less on the contrary since the anti-tobacco campaign was launched.

In 1964, the percentage of smokers among the male population fell from 59 to 53 per cent. Furthermore, 18 million adults, which includes half the doctors, have stopped smoking.

The report states finally that the campaign against smoking had some effect, but it deplors the fact that the law passed in 1965 merely ordered the words "attention, smoking may be dangerous to your health" to be placed on cigarette packages instead of taking more vigorous steps to force cigarette manufacturers to have such warnings written on their advertisements.

Professors Francis Peyton and Charles Huggins, the two American Nobel prize winners for medicine in 1966, stressed the dangers of nicotine during a press conference in Stockholm, calling it an "undeniable source of cancer".

Professor Huggins, for his part, said that "sooner or later, cigarettes cause lung cancer and cigars cancer of the tongue or the mouth".

In a lecture given during a conference on health and tobacco addiction, Mr. Emerson Douyon, psychologist and head of the Montreal Association for Retarded Children, compared cigarette addicts to alcoholics and drug addicts who, by their behaviour, hide personality problems.

• (10:20 p.m.)

The confirmed smoker, especially the cigarette smoker, is often childish, insecure, inconsistent, and does not usually know why he smokes and why he cannot quit smoking. The habit is absurd, regressive, infantile and is also a manifestation of masochism. Smokers do not stop smoking, even when they are aware of the relationship between cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung. Statistics prove that lung cancer causes twice as many deaths, in every province and every year, as drowning. We know that safety organizations do their utmost to prevent fatal accidents, but the greatest calamity is still the number of deaths from lung cancer which, in many cases, could be avoided. Still, very few people seem to be concerned about it.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I am asking the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mrs. Rideout), as a result of this report, to alert the