

hundreds of studies carried out in different ways in different parts of the world that cigarette smoking is a serious health hazard. The onus would appear to be on those who seriously doubt this conclusion to refute it with consistent and solid evidence derived from research not criticism and speculation. In the Committee's view such evidence does not appear to exist and since it has not been brought forward there is no basis for a controversy as some would suggest. To delay correcting action to await such evidence would be contrary to the public interest.

The Committee considers it noteworthy that those scientists who dispute the evidence have failed to convince the vast majority of their scientific peers throughout the world. One might expect them to have wider support from their colleagues before they attempt to convince lay groups. It is also interesting that a large amount of the increasing evidence about the harmful effects of cigarette smoking is being derived from studies sponsored by the tobacco industry.³⁴ The industry is to be commended, of course, for its extensive support of this type of research. In its brief to the Committee, the Canadian Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association commented:

"...It is significant that the tobacco industry which has urgent reason for producing contradictory evidence and immense financial resources for compiling such evidence were it available has not been able to provide a statistical challenge."³⁵

Society would be seriously handicapped in its utilization of scientific discoveries if it was required to wait for every mechanism to be explained before making use of them. Much suffering would have occurred and many lives would have been lost if the introduction of insulin and penicillin had required a complete understanding of the way they worked in the human body. Similarly, the value of citrus fruit in the prevention of scurvy and the benefits of smallpox vaccination were accepted on empirical grounds long before the causes of these diseases were understood. In his testimony to the Committee, Dr. D. H. Copp, President of the National Cancer Institute of Canada said: "Were it not for the emotional relationship of this particular habit and some of the other factors which are involved, we would have eliminated this long ago, as we have eliminated other pollutants."³⁶

Dr. R. A. Mustard, Professor of Surgery, University of Toronto, and Member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute of Canada told the Committee:

"...No one can give you a specific answer on how many doctors disagree with these findings that we have advocated. As a matter of fact, I believe there

³⁴ For example, see Review of Activities, Tobacco Research Council (Britain), 1963-66.

³⁵ Minutes—No. 24—Monday, April 21, 1969.

³⁶ Minutes—No. 44—Thursday, June 19, 1969, page 1974.