

EVIDENCE

TUESDAY, January 29, 1963.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen I see a quorum.

Before we start I should like to inform this committee that I have been in touch with the people in Montreal concerning the trip. It has been changed to Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings, February 14, 15 and 16.

Also, Dr. Brien's special committee on new drugs will be here next Tuesday morning at 9.30. I talked to Dr. Brien on the telephone and we are endeavouring to get in touch with the other two gentlemen of that committee to make sure that they can be here at that same time.

I felt this morning, if it is in accordance with the committee's wishes, that we would hear the minister and then ask any questions we have in respect of his statement; then hear from Dr. Morrell, the director of the food and drugs directorate, and then question him in regard to his statement. I hope that is in accordance with the committee's wishes.

Some Hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Honourable J. WALDO MONTEITH (*Minister of National Health and Welfare*): Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether, this being the first meeting of the committee, it would be in order for me to introduce some of the officials of my department who are here with me?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

Mr. MONTEITH: Mr. Chairman, on my right is Dr. G. D. W. Cameron, deputy minister of national health and welfare, and then Dr. C. A. Morrell, chief of the food and drug directorate; Mr. R. E. Curran, the department's legal advisor and Mr. Eric Preston, chief of personnel services.

In addition to the director, the following senior staff members from the department of food and drugs are present:

Dr. L. I. Pugsley, associate director; Dr. R. A. Chapman, assistant director in charge of scientific services; Dr. J. B. Murphy, chief medical officer; Mr. M. G. Allmark, chief of the pharmacology and toxicology section; Mr. Paul Soucy, chief of the proprietary or patent medicines section and Mr. R. C. Hammond, chief of the narcotic control division.

I think generally these will be the chief people of the department who will be available to supply information to us.

You will all have read many press reports, and heard a great deal said in the commons chamber, on the death-dealing properties of certain drugs, and on the general pollution of his environment by man himself.

In this committee, which certainly has an immense task before it, you will have an opportunity to learn at first hand of the views of the experts in medical and scientific fields. You will, we trust, ultimately be able to put this whole picture into perspective, in your own minds and in the minds of all Canadians.

The apparent effects of thalidomide will be with us through the lives of every man in this room, as its victims grow into the world.

It is our job to ensure that these victims are cared for in the best possible manner, that their needs are met to the fullest extent we can devise, and to ensure, as much as is possible, that a similar tragedy will never occur again.