

Non-smokers' Health Act

Mr. Speller: I do not see Government Members here. In fact, I do not see any other Members representing tobacco areas here discussing this Bill. Where are the Government Members?

This is a very serious case of a farmer who has been adversely affected by the Government's policies. I know I only have a short time in which to speak, and if the Hon. Member would keep his interjections to himself I could outline to the House the seriousness of this issue and how it is affecting individual families in my riding. The letter reads:

I have a very hard time making my living of \$350 every two weeks with three children still at home—

I am writing this letter you to realize how hard life is after I sold my quota. Sometimes I feel like I am going to have a nervous breakdown. Even my children are suffering. They are nervous because they see all my hardships and problems. Last year my 19 year-old son underwent a terrible surgery for a bleeding ulcer. The specialist even said that he couldn't understand how such a young person could get such a bad ulcer. Without surgery, my son would have died.

I was forced to sell my quota because of financial problems, and my means of living have been destroyed. I feel that it is unfair and very wrong that we get treated different than the people who sold their quota under the redux later.

That is a whole other issue, one which the Government has yet to address. I hope the Government will help these people who originally sold their quotas and were treated unfairly by the Government. The letter goes on:

What about my family's health? What about my own health, or others in the same situation as me?

I do not know if Hon. Members realize this, but the suicide rate in the tobacco area is outrageous. It is much higher than the national average. In fact, there is a great deal of suicide, family break-ups and general poor health. This is a product of the Government's policies, or of the Government not directing proper policies to help those people who have been adversely affected by the Government's decision to implement certain programs. I am referring not only to programs like this Bill but to the Budget cuts the Government has brought in.

I know I have been given only a couple of minutes, so I will end my remarks. This Government's policy with regard to tobacco has been completely wrong and unfair. The Government should be providing programs for those farmers. They are good farmers and good people

and they deserve better than this Government's programs with regard to tobacco.

• (1620)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and the House went into committee thereon, Mr. Paproski in the chair.

[*Translation*]

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

[*English*]

On Clause 3—*Duty of employers*

Mr. Riis: I have a couple of questions, Mr. Chairman, and I suspect that Clause 3 is as good a place as any to ask them. We seem to be moving expeditiously. Perhaps I will ask one question at this point and raise others.

My question relates to the whole matter of designated smoking areas on board buses and airplanes. Presumably, at the moment where there are smoking flights, a certain number of seats are designated for smokers and other seats for non-smokers. All of us who have been on those flights or on buses that do it in a similar way realize that smoke blows all over the place and that does not seem to be a very satisfactory manner, if we are serious about providing a smoke-free area.

Would the Minister give some assurances that the regulations that will be passed associated with this Act will protect passengers and also people who work in those environments from environmental smoke as a result of the different seating arrangements?

Mr. Corbeil: I am informed that there will be provisions concerning the regulations, and that will be done in consultation with the labour movement and employees' groups.

Mr. Riis: It could be exciting to see how that will actually be done. I have to accept the Minister's words that it will be done. I have a related question. Obviously, from time to time, employees will be required to enter areas that are smoking areas. An example could be caretakers who have to go in and clean up rooms where