to cause the death of literally thousands of people in a short period of time. Take carbon monoxide as a case in point. This is an extremely deadly gas, yet it is the major component of pollution from motor vehicles. The continuing growth of the automobile population means that we may be approaching a saturation point.

There are other groups of elements to cause worry too. Nitrous oxides are one; hydrocarbons are another. In all, there are certainly enough of these types of substances to impel the Minister of National Health and Welfare to seek new and positive action. This concern is not new to the department. As a matter of fact, it has been in the field for about 15 years. For instance, the department has for a long time provided consultative and technical services in the solution of in-plant air pollution problems as a part of its broad industrial hygiene activities. With increasing attention being given to the broader question of urban air pollution generally and its effect on health and on the economy, the department has been expanding its activities. The air pollution activities of the department are now carried out by the occupational health and radiation protection divisions of the health services branch. These activities include advisory responsibilities, surveillance, special studies and research. The department also supports outside air pollution control activities through its national health grants program. Close collaboration with the provinces is maintained in the conduct of all these activities, including in-service training for some provincial staff. In connection with I.J.C. studies, the department also maintains close relationships with United States federal and state departments of health.

• (8:50 p.m.)

Some concrete examples of our activity can be mentioned, such as the I.J.C. survey in the Detroit-Windsor and Port Huron areas on the subject of trans-boundary pollution. This work is carried out in co-operation with the province of Ontario. Measurements include dust-fall, smoke density, suspended particulates, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, oxidants and hydrocarbons. Related meteorological data are provided by the Department of Transport. We also make radio-active fallout measurements on daily filter samples collected by a 24 station sampling network across Canada.

In addition, special studies are undertaken on the same basis as they are in the water pollution field. Right now, a general study is being made in the national capital region, and a specific inquiry in the same location is going on with respect to automobile emissions. On a larger scale, as part of the department's broader industrial hygiene activities, studies have recently been completed including load surveys in a smelting plant and in mines in New Brunswick; tests for toxic gases and solvents in the Ottawa area; dust conditions in working areas in Windsor; dust conditions in grain terminals; chlorine measurements in Vancouver and an insecticide study in New Brunswick.

Thus, over a year ago, the Dominion Council of Health, including all deputy ministers of health in Canada, passed a resolution in co-operation with the provinces, concerning the role of the federal government, in air pollution control. Among other things the council called for an effective Canadian network of air pollution sampling stations; uniform air quality criteria applicable to Canadian conditions; emission standards for industries and motor vehicles; research on the behaviour and control of air pollution in special geographic areas; as well as a model control unit to assist the provinces, on request, in handling specific problems which would serve as a means of training provincial air pollution personnel.

The federal government intends to respond to this appeal. Already a partial sampling network is in place. Data on smoke density in sulphur dioxide is being collected and published frequently from nine cities across Canada. This program also enjoys a cross-feed from the Ontario sampling network. Moreover, in the realm of training facilities we have established a special air sampling tower at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa. This tower is equippped with associated meteorological instrumentation in order to provide a testing and training facility as well as a surveillance facility.

The coming year will see a new offensive working toward a national standard of clean air, for the Minister of National Health and Welfare takes very seriously, not only his responsibility to preserve and protect the present health standards of Canadians, but his responsibility to insure that we are able to leave behind us for future generations the heritage of a better atmosphere than the one in which we live now. It is a fundamental part of our program to build a better quality of life for all our citizens. Thus, he will be