

Dr. R. A. Mustard, Professor of Surgery, University of Toronto, and Member of the Board of Directors, Canadian Cancer Society and National Cancer Institute of Canada reported: “. . .It is quite rare to see a person with lung cancer who has not been a heavy smoker. It is so rare that it is a point of great excitement to find such a case. . .”

To those of us who are actually in the business of treating sick people, there is no question about the argument of whether cigarette smoking is important. It may not be the only cause of lung cancer, but it certainly is by all odds the major one, the important one, and it is the only one which at this moment we could if we wished withdraw.”⁸

Dr. John B. Armstrong, Executive Director (Medical), Canadian Heart Foundation told the Committee: “. . .In summary, Sir, we are not suggesting that cigarette smoking is the only cause of heart attacks and heart deaths, but it is certainly one of the important factors over which we as individuals, have control.”⁹

Dr. Aurèle Beaulnes, Professor of Pharmacology, McGill University, Montreal, and Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee, Quebec Heart Foundation, said to the Committee that, as a pharmacologist he is convinced there is enough information to show that nicotine is an important facilitating factor in bringing about the development of cardiovascular diseases. He also stated that physicians and scientists generally agree that, even if the basic mechanisms are not completely understood, the statistical evidence is sufficient to allow concurrence with the American Heart Association statement (that the evidence is overwhelming that cigarette smoking is associated with coronary disease and that the risk of that disease increases with the amount of smoking and decreases with the cessation of smoking).¹⁰

Dr. Y. Morin, Cardiologist, Institute of Cardiology, Quebec, reported to the Committee that clinicians have known for a long time that cigarettes are harmful for people who suffer from coronary heart disease.—“Heart specialists noticed quite a long while ago that patients who stopped smoking showed marked improvement. Furthermore, I might stress the fact that the sudden stop in the use of tobacco among patients has never had bad results.”¹¹

Dr. D. W. Thompson, of the Department of Pathology, Toronto General Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, demonstrated to the Committee the changes which occur in the linings of the bronchial tubes following exposure to cigarette smoke.

In his testimony, Dr. Thompson pointed out that cancers of the lung that develop in non-smokers are usually a particular type—which is recognizable in any group—smokers and non-smokers mixed. These represent only a small

⁸ Minutes—No. 44—Thursday, June 19, 1969, page 1976.

⁹ Minutes—No. 31—Thursday, May 15, 1969, page 1128.

¹⁰ Minutes—No. 31—Thursday, May 15, 1969, pages 1132 and 1133.

¹¹ Minutes—No. 20—Thursday, February 27, 1969, page 656.