

*Non-Smokers' Health Act*

asking for an environment that protects non-smokers from tobacco smoke.

The effects of direct exposure to smoke have been clearly demonstrated over the past decades. Thirty per cent of cancer deaths, 30 per cent of heart disease deaths, and 90 per cent of chronic obstructive lung disease deaths are caused by tobacco. More than 30,000 Canadians die each year from smoking-related diseases and 17 per cent of all deaths in Canada are attributed to smoking.

The evidence on the effects of environmental or passive smoking has only begun to emerge in the past 10 years or so. Research to date indicates a relationship between passive smoke and low birth weight and injury for unborn babies, respiratory illnesses for children and lung cancer for those involuntarily exposed to smoke over a long period of time such as spouses of smokers.

The U.S. Surgeon General estimates that one hour spent by non-smokers in a smoke-filled room may be equivalent to their smoking five to thirty cigarettes. In his 1986 annual report, he recommended that exposure to environmental tobacco smoke be eliminated and that policies aiming to do this be implemented with the input and support of all involved including smokers and non-smokers and management and employees.

I would like to comment briefly on the recent initiatives announced by the Government to reduce tobacco use in Canada, and particularly those measures to reduce smoking in the federal government workplace. As part of the Government's initiatives which were referred to by my friend from Scarborough and announced on April 22, 1987, the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret) indicated his intention to declare a ban on smoking in all Public Service workplaces by January 1, 1989. This smoking ban will be implemented in a phased-in manner based on consultation with the unions in the National Joint Council. This consultation is essential to achieve the successful and harmonious implementation of a ban and to ensure the continued co-operation and compliance of all employees.

The Public Service of Canada is the largest employer under federal jurisdiction and has a number of unique work situations and work sites. Some work sites are shared with employees of private sector employers, others are the full-time residents of special client groups or of Public Service employees, and some work sites are in shared accommodations with the general public. These situations will need to be considered and addressed in the consultation process to establish implementation measures that take into account these special situations.

There are already a number of Public Service departments that have restricted smoking in their workplaces. These measures were implemented after consultation with the employees involved. The experiences of these departments indicate that not only non-smokers but also many smokers and in fact the majority of smokers among the employees supported these initiatives.

It is increasingly evident that smoking in the workplace and in other public areas is becoming unacceptable to a majority of Canadians. The Government's initiative to ban smoking in the Public Service workplace reflects the rapidly changing public and employee attitudes toward tobacco usage. Daily we hear of employers implementing bans or restricting smoking in the workplace to a few designated, agreed upon smoking areas. Exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke in the workplace is no longer tolerated and employees have requested action on this issue.

• (1550)

In 1985, Treasury Board, in consultation with Public Service unions, developed guidelines to assist Departments in implementing measures to control smoking in the workplace. Certain areas were identified where public servants could not smoke, for example in areas or at service counters where the general public was served. It was agreed at that time that the guidelines were an interim measure designed to inform Departments of the increasing sensitivity to this issue and of the need to consult with their employees on ways to resolve co-operatively differences related to tobacco smoke in the workplace. It was also agreed that these guidelines were for a period of three years and that thereafter a more stringent approach would be required. Both the Treasury Board and the unions in the National Joint Council agreed to start consulting on a standard a year ahead of schedule because of increasing pressure to have more stringent measures apply.

According to Health and Welfare Canada, the successful implementation of a smoking ban is based upon strong support for a ban by the senior management of an organization and consultation with employees on the development of a phased in plan to achieve this ban. These measures, as I have indicated, are being adopted by the Public Service of Canada.

The announcement of the Government's intention to ban smoking in the Public Service workplace is an important and progressive step by Canada's largest employer. It is hoped that it may serve as a catalyst for other employers.

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Hon. Member for Broadview—Greenwood (Ms. McDonald) for raising this issue. It is an historic fact that this is the first Bill under the new Private Members' procedures which will hopefully go through its remaining stages and come to a vote.

**Mr. Boudria:** It is the second one.

**Mr. Cassidy:** I beg your pardon. The Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria) has corrected me.

The Bill calls for two measures—first, to ban advertising by declaring tobacco to be a hazardous product and, second, to ban smoking in federally regulated workplaces, particularly in the Government of Canada.