

could be expected and economic hardship for growers, workers and others could follow a precipitous dismantling of the industry. Furthermore, any hope of developing less hazardous products by means of government-industry co-operation would be lost.

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THE CONCLUSIONS OF EXPERTS

The Canadian Medical Association in its brief to the Committee said: "...The traditional scientific discipline of medicine combined with the responsibility of serving as the public voice of the profession has resulted in our normally issuing guarded or conservative public statements. The Committee is reminded of this position of the Association to emphasize the importance and seriousness that it attaches to the subject at hand. The story of the health hazard created by cigarette smoking represents an unrivalled tale of illness, disability and death. The potential benefits to be derived from the cessation of smoking place it at a level of importance in preventive medicine with pasteurization of milk, the purification and chlorination of water, and immunization . . .

We believe it sufficient to point out that there is no longer any scientific controversy regarding the risk created by cigarette smoking. The original statistical observations have been validated by clinical observation and the evidence is now accepted as fact by Canadian medicine.⁵

L'Association des Médecins de langue française du Canada reported in its brief that, from day-to-day observation and by repeated and systematic observation of a large number of patients, chronic bronchitis and emphysema occur almost exclusively in cigarette smokers, being rare in non-smokers. L'Association reported that doctors find few cases of bronchitis and emphysema among non-smoking groups such as Seventh-Day Adventists. L'Association went on to report that these diseases were formerly observed mostly in patients over 50 years old but that it is now not uncommon to see smokers of 20 to 25 years of age stricken with chronic bronchitis. "...It is quite common to see that former smokers notice that, since they have stopped smoking, their symptoms have diminished, they spit less, cough less, and are less winded. Now, day-to-day experience also shows that post-surgical complications are more common in smokers than in non-smokers."⁶

Dr. D. V. Bates, specialist in diseases of the chest, Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, commented, "...these two diseases of chronic bronchitis and emphysema do not as a rule kill people quickly. They incapacitate people for years."⁷

⁵ Minutes—No. 20—Thursday, February 27, 1969, pages 689 and 691.

⁶ Minutes—No. 44—Thursday, June 19, 1969, page 1988.

⁷ Minutes—No. 20—Thursday, February 27, 1969, page 657.