

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

The Minister of National Health and Welfare again expressed the adherence of the federal government to the announced four principles, and its objective to commence federal contributions to provincial medical care plans on a nation-wide basis by July 1, 1967.

That is the statement that I made at the federal-provincial conference, and it still represents the policy of the government.

While it would be desirable to get this legislation through the house as quickly as possible, it should be borne in mind that from the federal point of view the legislation affecting medicare will be relatively simple because it will take the form of enabling legislation providing for payments to provinces within the framework of the four principles which have been enunciated by the Prime Minister.

It would of course be satisfactory and desirable to have this legislation on the order paper and to get it passed—certainly it would be my wish—as quickly as possible. However, I have in mind that as Minister of National Health and Welfare I have certain prior commitments to the provinces with respect, first, to the Canadian assistance plan, which was targeted for April 1, 1966—

**Mr. Knowles:** We have not seen that yet either.

**Mr. MacEachen:** —and also with respect to the health resources fund payments, which are to extend back to January 1, 1966.

**Mr. Knowles:** We have not seen that either.

**Mr. MacEachen:** These are two health and welfare items of legislation which must come first in this session, as I regard them as important legislation which is to be undertaken in the field of health and welfare.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. I must advise the minister that the time allotted to him has expired.

[Translation]

#### HEALTH AND WELFARE—WARNING ON PACKAGES OF CIGARETTES

**Mr. Antonio Yanakis (Berthier-Maskinongé-Delanaudière):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to call the attention of the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen) to my proposal concerning the dangers of smoking.

On May 15, 1963, Doctor M. R. MacCharles stated at a convention of the Canadian Medical Association, that excessive smoking was the main cause of lung cancer and that this disease was incurable.

[Mr. MacEachen.]

The committee made up of 17 doctors, including cancer specialists, unanimously agreed that the situation had reached such alarming proportions that a wide publicity campaign should be launched among the public.

In January 1964, Dr. Luther Terry, a well known American physician, published a report which had been prepared by a committee of experts and stated that there was a direct link between smoking, on the one hand, and lung diseases, respiratory ailments and heart troubles, on the other. The report further said that cigarette smoking was such a serious health hazard that it was the duty of the American government to take appropriate steps in that connection.

According to statistics, Mr. Speaker, each day, 450 boys and girls ranging from 11 to 17 years of age start smoking. We all know that when a child develops that habit, it cannot do without smoking after two years.

In 1963, lung cancer made 2,500 victims in Canada and that figure is increasing at a fantastic rate from year to year.

While medical science is waging a lost battle to save those lives, the tobacco companies spend millions of dollars a year to increase their sales among adults and to entice a new generation into acquiring the smoking habit.

Although over \$150 million are spent yearly for publicity purposes in North America, a very meagre sum indeed is spent in Canada to protect the public against that danger.

If the situation continues, according to a Canadian Medical Association report, cigarettes will be responsible for the premature death of nearly 100,000 children now attending Canadian institutions.

No one wants to deprive anyone else of smoking pleasure, providing he is aware of the risk involved but when the risk is hidden as in the case of cigarettes, persons should be warned by positive measures as in the case of certain drugs labelled with the word "poison". I ask the government, in the interest of the nation's health, to require the tobacco companies to label cigarette packs with the words: "Beware. Smoking may be harmful to your health".

[English]

**Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the interest of the hon. member in this