

Hon. Mr. McGUIRE: We are acting here for the general public and not for the physicians or any other select group. We must pass our laws for the benefit of the general public. They are the people we have in mind. If there is certain information they should have then we do not want to stop it.

Hon. Mr. KING: This is a protective measure.

Hon. Mr. McGUIRE: The wording is "no person...". It includes the clerk in the drug store and everybody else.

Mr. CURRAN: I think you have to qualify that in all uses with the words "to the general public".

Hon. Mr. McGUIRE: Well, it is the general public we want to serve. We want to give them everything they should have.

Hon. Mr. STAMBAUGH: We have to protect them as well.

Mr. CURRAN: Is not the general public adequately protected in being able to obtain treatment for these conditions from legitimate medical sources?

Hon. Mr. McGUIRE: I do not know that they are. I have seen physicians who could not tell people what they had and others who would not tell them.

Mr. CURRAN: That would seem to be a matter for the medical profession to handle rather than for legislation.

Hon. Mr. McGUIRE: The legislation is for everybody.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I have tried to get this gentleman to give me a single case where he has had reason for introducing this legislation, and he has not yet given me one.

Dr. MORRELL: May I give you some of those? I can give you several. We will start off with a man in Alberta—I don't know what his background was but he was a layman—who was advocating a cure for cancer locally within that province at least. We took him to court and secured a conviction under the law which is very similar to this.

We had a case of another layman—I don't recall whether he was a shoemaker or what he was—but he would sell you a handkerchief which he had blessed or prayed over, or something of that sort, as treatment for high blood pressure.

We had a man in the province of Quebec who manufactured an apparatus consisting of a steel cylinder, which contained another steel cylinder in which there was some substance, and from the outer cylinder there were two leads or wires attached to it; and these you wrapped around your body somewhere and it was supposed to be good for arthritis; also, a number of other diseases covered in Schedule A. We took him to court last year and secured a conviction under the present section 6(a) for advertising drugs to the general public.

There are innumerable cases in the United States, where there is no such law as ours and where there is much more difficulty. You have to prove to the court that the article in question was not adequate for the purpose, or that the labelling of the drug was inaccurate, before any action can be taken.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: But none of these cases prove to me that the legislation you now have is not sufficient for your purposes. You spoke of the conviction in Alberta and the conviction in Quebec, and you accomplished them under present legislation. Why do you want more legislation?

Dr. Morrell: This isn't the recent—

Mr. CURRAN: This is in the present Act.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Then why don't you re-enact again?

Dr. MORRELL: I think it is one of the most important clauses in the Food and Drug Act, and it protects the public against exploitation by ignorant people