

Also the Hon. Member mentioned the association of sulphur dioxide with colon and breast cancers. That study more clearly showed that the presence or absence of Vitamin D might be associated. There is some sense that indeed acid rain pollution might affect Vitamin D levels because of its impact on ultraviolet radiation. However, it is a bit of a leap to come to the conclusion that acid rain is indeed responsible for those increases in cancer. Scientifically it is a very difficult proposition to make and to hold on to.

In fact, just two short months ago an international symposium on the health effects of acid aerosols reviewed adverse health effects studies in many countries. It clearly concluded that more research was needed, because none of the results to date have anything more than a very tenuous link to the phenomena identified by the Hon. Member.

• (1820)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—VICTIMS OF BRAINWASHING
EXPERIMENTS FUNDED BY CIA—REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE IN SEEKING LEGAL REDRESS

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, it was a little over seven years ago that nine Canadians, all victims of terrible brainwashing experiments by the late psychiatrist Dr. Cameron at Montreal's Allan Memorial Institute, launched a \$9 million lawsuit against the CIA of the United States. Indeed, both the CIA and the Canadian Government, particularly the Ministry of Health and Welfare, funded these experiments which were not only unethical but brain damaging, resulting in permanent damage to the victims of the experiments which took place in the 1950s and early 1960s.

For seven years, these Canadians have been seeking justice in U.S. courts. Unfortunately, they are also seeking support from the Canadian Government but to date, at least, that support is sadly lacking. Nine victims have sued the CIA for its part in these grisly experiments, alleging that the CIA was criminally negligent and reckless in supporting Dr. Cameron's brainwashing experiments. One of the victims has died since the suit was launched. We can only hope that more will not die before justice is finally done in this matter.

What we are talking about here is a horror story in which both the Canadian Government and the CIA were implicated. As one of the victims, Velma Orlikow—incidentally, the wife of one of our colleagues in the House, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow)—said:

—get off your horse and help us. We need some help from our government. We're innocent victims of something that happened that should never have been. You can't put us back where we were, but at least do something to help us now. Do something to stand up and say this can't happen in Canada.

The lawyer who was working tirelessly and courageously on behalf of these victims cannot understand why the Canadian Government will not stand up for nine Canadians who were victims of terrible experiments. He says:

I keep asking Canadians why your Government is acting this way. Some say it is the usual Canadian fright of the Big Brother to the South. Others say it is Canada's, now admitted, involvement with Dr. Cameron. I still do not know.

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But one thing I do know—it's a hell of a note when a 75 year old U.S. civil liberties lawyer cares more about these injured Canadian citizens, now in the twilight of life, than their own Government.

What did the Conservative Government do in response to this tragic situation? It appointed a former Conservative Member of Parliament who was defeated in the 1984 election to conduct the study, a Mr. George Cooper. Cooper came to the conclusion that there was no moral or legal responsibility whatever on the part of the Government of Canada to the victims of these experiments. Cooper suggested that there was perhaps no permanent harm done and that the involvement of the CIA was simply, in his words, "a red herring". All of this without Cooper even interviewing a single one of the victims of these experiments and without examining any of their medical files or reviewing any of the records of the CIA offered by the U.S. Government.

Approximately a year ago I asked the then Minister of Justice what action he would take to assist these individuals in their lawsuit against the CIA in Washington. The Minister of Justice stated at that time that the Government has assisted and will continue to assist the plaintiffs. Nothing has happened so far. On June 3, 1987 I asked the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hnatyshyn):

In view of the commitment over a year ago by the then Minister of Justice to consider seriously assisting these people financially, when will the Conservative Government finally move to assist these victims of these terrible experiments in their pursuit of justice against the CIA.

The Minister of Justice said:

I can only say to the Hon. Member that I am in a process of consulting and looking at this matter... I hope that we will be able to come forward with some concrete results in the very near future.

How much longer must the victims of these brainwashing experiments wait before getting action from the Canadian Government? What about a simple offer of assistance of legal aid or access to all documents which might help them in their court battle? This same Government was very eager to assist the Hon. Member for York—Peel (Mr. Stevens) in spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on his legal fees. Why will the Government not do the right thing in this case and assist the victims of these brainwashing experiments as well? Joseph Rauh said:

If I were a Canadian I'd be ashamed of my own government.

• (1825)

I am ashamed of a Government which has so far refused to do the right thing and assist the victims of these experiments. I hope the Parliamentary Secretary will rise in his place tonight and give some concrete support to the eight individuals and the estate of the ninth, and some assurance that they will not be doubly victimized. They were victimized by these terrible experiments by Dr. Cameron and now they are being victimized by their own Government. The time for action and justice is long overdue.

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Madam