

member who moved it, that it will be referred as soon as possible to the committee on health, welfare and social affairs.

Mr. Gaston Isabelle (Hull): Mr. Chairman, I should like first to congratulate my hon. friend from Parkdale (Mr. Haidasz) who introduced this bill. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) said he has tried himself on a few occasions to have some of these bills passed, and I wish to tell him that the hon. member for Parkdale did too last year, when I had an opportunity of saying a few words in this connection.

This bill is extremely important, and to me, the funds that should be appropriated to research on air pollution would certainly amount to several billion dollars.

In any event, the problem is extremely serious. As the member for Parkdale has mentioned, it causes lung diseases, particularly lung cancer. In some large cities, specially the more densely populated, autopsies have revealed that after smoking, air pollution was one of the main causes of lung cancer.

• (5:40 p.m.)

Today, on account of the increasing number of motorcars, the air is getting more and more polluted. It is even said that in a city like Montreal, the concentration of polluted air varies between 45 and 545 tons of dust per square mile. Therefore, we should recognize the importance of the bill before us.

Last year, a test was made in Montreal with a view to showing the damage caused by pollution. The test was conducted by Mr. Jean Marier, director of the Air Pollution Division of the Montreal Health Department, who stated the following:

One of their inspectors spent several days cruising around the downtown section of Montreal as a passenger in a car.

The ventilation system of the car was working perfectly and the windows were down. Here are the results of these tests:

The tests have shown a proportion of 12 per cent of carbon monoxide, originating from the exhaust system of various vehicles, in the blood stream of the inspector. This means that 12 per cent of the red corpuscles could not function and absorb the oxygen.

When there is more than 10 per cent carbon monoxide, there are slight poisoning symptoms, nausea, general discomfort.

—torpor.

Between 15 and 20 per cent, there is dizziness and the judgment and faculties become unbalanced. Between 50 and 60 per cent, death strikes rapidly.

I would now like to quote remarks I once made about a similar bill.

The world has already witnessed similar tragedies and no one can deny that a large city,

where such conditions prevail, suffers similar consequences.

In the last few years, we have noticed a considerable decrease in the sunlight and a progressive increase in the fog in industrial areas. The reputation of the notorious "smog" (smoke and fog together), which affects London is universally recognized.

Among the cities which have suffered the most from air pollution, one can single out the city of London, England, where it caused a great number of deaths and disabilities—

—during the famous winter of 1952 when England was, for some time, isolated from the rest of the world.

As a result of that epidemic—if one can call it that—

—4,000 persons died and hospitals were filled with the victims of that scourge.

It will also be recalled that as the smog—a combination of smoke and fog—increased, hospitals and other medical centres had to admit only the more severely affected patients.

However, humans were not the only ones to be affected.

—some animals, taking part in a show at that time, died or had to be destroyed, due to acute respiratory trouble. All animals were affected, and those who survived required intensive care.

This is the worst disaster of its kind, although London has registered losses from this scourge before and since 1952. The death registers show that already in 1874 there was a number of deaths due to air pollution. The same happened in other parts of the world.

I would not want to delay this debate any further, but I want to say that closer to us, in the state of Pennsylvania, in 1958, 20 people died of diseases probably due to air pollution. More recently, in New York, the fatal effects of pollution have been recorded.

I said also in 1968:

In London, for instance, the day fog appeared, visibility was good in the morning but at a certain time, when the velocity of the wind came to nearly nothing, pollution started to cover the city. The next day, smog became so dense that some transportation companies had to stop all activities. Traffic practically stopped.

—if you know London—

—and many drivers left their cars in the streets.

In fact, the city of London was practically paralyzed for four days. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I strongly support this bill to which special consideration should be given since something will have to be done to curb pollution.

[English]

Mr. Mark Smerchanski (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I should like to congratulate my colleague on his excellent presentation on pollution, and I support his bill. However, I