dangers of smoking, they would not have been so quick to license tobacco as a legal product, advertise and encourage its distribution.

In light of the information we now have, I am amazed that the tobacco manufacturers actually appeared before a Standing Committee of the House of Commons and tried to convinced us that tobacco smoking did not cause cancer. I am one who has most recently in my own family experienced a direct cause/effect of the relation of cancer to a smoker of many decades who has had part of a lung removed. I know how painful it can be to have to break the habit, but it is certainly something that smokers and non-smokers alike understand, except for the tobacco manufacturers.

I was surprised to hear in the House today the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Beatty) refer the question of addiction to the Royal Society. Perhaps I misunderstood him, but I took from that statement that the Minister is confused about whether tobacco is an addictive substance. He referred to the fact that he was having the question of addiction referred to the Royal Society for scientific reasons. He seems to be casting some doubt as to whether tobacco is an addictive product. One only has to travel through the hospitals of this country to see people who have just had part of their lung removed, suffering from emphysema and hooked up to oxygen but desperately craving tobacco to realize that no further studies are needed to tell us that it is an addictive substance.

Last week most of Canada's newspapers published a story that was a very powerful indictment of the addictive capacity of tobacco. It was a picture of a young man in British Columbia, I believe, who was in hospital suffering from the after-effects of surgery related to tobacco smoking. It was a picture of him walking along a city street in his bed clothes, hooked up to an I.V. with the needle running through his nose. He was being stopped by an RCMP officer wanting to know what he was doing wandering the streets hooked up to an I.V. He was going to buy cigarettes because the hospital in his neighbourhood had passed a resolution to no longer sell tobacco products. This addicted individual was pushing his I.V. drip along the street because he was desperate for a cigarette. Obviously tobacco is addictive.

If the Minister is truly concerned, and not simply endorsing the Neville phenomenon of doing as little as possible, he should not be asking the Royal Society to examine whether or not tobacco is addictive, he should be drafting specific legislation to inform consumers directly about the dangers of tobacco when they purchase the product.

I am pleased that we are passing this Bill today. I think it is ironic that we are doing so on the same day that we see the machiavellian internal machinations of the Conservative Party come to light with respect to the watering down of specific legislation. I would ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare in particular to reconsider his view that the Royal Society should be considering the question of addiction. It is an addictive substance and I wish he would govern himself accordingly.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Corbeil: Mr. Speaker, I will be brief. On the third reading of Bill C-27, I would like to thank Hon. Members on both sides of the House for kindly agreeing to pass the amendment to the Non-smokers' Health Act without delay.

This cooperation shows us that all Members of this House care about the health and welfare of Canada's working men and women.

Mr. Speaker, you will allow me in closing to express my astonishment every time I hear Members of this House become indignant that those who might not agree with all the legislation that the Government brings forward are criticized for stating their opinion. I think that on the contrary, for the health of democracy in our country, all should have the opportunity to express themselves on everything that interests them and to make their opinions known.

I think that in the end, this helps us pass the best legislation for all Canadians and in closing, I do not hesitate to join in praising the former Member who presented this Private Member's Bill to the Parliament of Canada. This shows once again that our democracy is alive and well!

• (1650)

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.