

*Privilege—Mr. Sargeant*

Madam Speaker, the zinc mixture that was used in the Winnipeg test, according to available data, was zinc cadmium sulphide. Cadmium sulphide is a long-known poison and an experimental carcinogen. According to the Handbook of Poisoning, "the ingestion of as little as ten milligrams will cause marked symptoms." The handbook further states that cadmium is damaging to all cells of the body. In Japan since 1962 some 230 cases of degenerative bone disease have been attributed to cadmium poisoning. This disease progresses very slowly so that symptoms may not appear for decades. Furthermore, Dr. David Penman of the Saskatchewan department of the environment told me that to suggest today the spraying of zinc cadmium sulphide throughout a city would simply be beyond question. Surely the parliamentary secretary does not wish to contend that this is a substance that is not harmful to human life.

In response to my call for a full-scale public inquiry into chemical and biological warfare testing in Canada to determine the nature and extent of this kind of operation, the parliamentary secretary insisted that this operation was not a secret at the time. She cited two reports concerning the tests which were carried in the local press in 1953 as proof. I have copies of those press reports in front of me, and anyone reading those news reports and comparing what they claim is the purpose of the tests and what we now know to be the truth would have no doubt that Winnipeg civic officials and the population of that city were misled about these tests at the time.

Let me read the first report concerning these tests. I am quoting from the Winnipeg *Free Press* of January 22, 1953:

Civil defence authorities from Ottawa are going to study smoke behaviour in Winnipeg.

—committee granted the Ottawa request to make the study which was part of a national program to study air currents in built-up areas.

The tests are made by spraying the air with small quantities of fluorescent powder which adheres to smoke particles and makes them visible.

Later that year, on June 23, 1953, the Winnipeg *Tribune* reported that:

Winnipeggers will be walking with their heads in the clouds next month—clouds of zinc powder which are to be released in civil defence experimental smoke tests.

Tests are to determine the feasibility of smoke screening the city and its vital installations in the event of enemy attack.

Nowhere is there reference made to testing for chemical and biological warfare. Even the communist councillor to whom she made reference yesterday believed that the tests were indeed to demonstrate the feasibility of smoke screens. This is quite obvious to those who have read his letter.

No one knew the real purpose of these tests. It is clear from the admission of the Department of National Defence that Canadians have been used as test subjects for experiments in chemical and biological warfare. Canadians have the right to know whether they are still unsuspecting test subjects, and they have the right to know the nature of the chemicals or

bacteria to which they have been, and for all we know are still being, exposed.

The types of answers provided by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence do this House a grave disservice by misleading all hon. members as to the nature and significance of this important issue. I would repeat my request that this government establish a full-scale public inquiry into this matter. It is a sad commentary on our governing process that Canadians must go to another country—in this case the United States—to find out what goes on in our own land, sanctioned secretly by our own government.

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Madam Speaker, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence (Mrs. Appolloni) said yesterday, as reported at page 1005 of *Hansard*:

—these tests took place some 27 years ago. Many of the people who were alive at that time... or involved in the tests at that time have since retired or, unfortunately, for other reasons, have passed away.

Madam Speaker, I am alive and I was involved in those tests.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Orlikow:** I was a member of the city council at that time. I would like to reaffirm what my colleague the hon. member for Selkirk-Interlake (Mr. Sargeant) said. He said that not only were the people of Winnipeg and the elected officials of the city of Winnipeg not told the truth, but in fact they were deliberately misled about what was taking place.

● (1510)

Let me quote from the remarks made by the parliamentary secretary yesterday as reported at page 1004 of *Hansard*. She said:

I should like also to caution the hon. member and all members of the House against paying undue attention to sensational reporting, the effects of which can only cause needless and cruel fear.

In reply to a further question she answered, again referring to the tests, as follows:

Far from being held in secret, it now appears that there were at least two reports of those tests at the same time—

Later she said:

—to imply that these tests were held in secret is wrong.

And later in answer to a further question, referring to the people of Winnipeg she said:

—we on this side prefer to assure them that there is no great danger—

I have a summary of the letter sent at the request of the Department of National Defence through the metropolitan director of civil defence in Winnipeg, Mr. M. H. S. Penhale, to the city clerk. The letter was transmitted to the city council and on the basis of it city council gave approval to the tests. The letter said that the proposed exercise was to investigate the behaviour of smoke dispersal in built-up areas. City council was told that a communiqué had been received from Ottawa, through the civil defence agency, which indicated that