

I also remember that the minister of Health from Singapore congratulated us, two years ago, in Mauritius—where the second medical conference of Commonwealth countries was being held—for our suggestions on future Canadian legislation on tobacco.

I think that the government of Singapore is the only one in Asia which has so far adopted legislative measures to try and defeat this scourge that is smoking.

In any event, I believe that the hon. member for Louis-Hébert (Mrs. Morin) touched on a very important point. She is an educator—I will not say a former educator, for as a member of this House she is still one, and always will be—and I think that to be an hon. member, particularly for the riding of Louis-Hébert, is to become some kind of an educator, but perhaps at a somewhat higher level than that at which she previously worked. I hope she will keep on working in this field so that we may support her when she talks about education because the use of tobacco in Canada is basically an educational problem.

What can you do in an hospital where doctors have a cigar, a cigarette or a pipe in their mouth while going on their morning rounds, at 7:55 and often while examining their patients, their eyes in many cases are already irritated by smoke?

Setting the example is what matters. And it is a very poor one for parents and teachers to give when they smoke like chimneys. Often also, they set their pants, their car afire but that does not seem to convince them. I recall that in committee, attempts were made to bring in figures on the fires caused by careless smokers and how much it had cost Canadians. Such figures were fantastic.

I was saying that this is a matter of education and that the parents ought to set an example. Today, parents smoke like chimneys. At night, when children come home, the first thing served is not soup, but indeed cigarettes. Everybody takes a cigarette, so children think that the use of tobacco is part of the parents personality and that everybody smokes. Small boys smoke hiding in closets. In summertime, in the old days, little boys used to hide in corn-fields in order to smoke a cigarette, and it was hard for Dad or Mom to catch them in such circumstances.

We should start educating them, as the Minister of National Health and Welfare from time to time does remarkable efforts in that direction. Unfortunately, it seems that financial resources are rather limited and that a small portion only goes to education.

Whenever the federal government does something for education, those who believe we encroach upon provincial powers, when we know that education, under the constitution, comes under provincial jurisdiction, immediately raise a general outcry throughout the provinces, saying that the federal government interferes in the field of education. And God knows, when we considered that problem in committee, all the funny things we heard with regard to our recommendation, namely that we should use funds to educate, through literature, bills, audio-visual

Restraint of Tobacco

methods, especially in schools. But in order to do that, Education Departments and School Boards had to be consulted and in order to reach the pupils concerned, it might perhaps have taken two or three years.

We know that the number of smokers has decreased in Canada but that cigarette smoking has increased. We know for instance that smoking is ever more popular among young people under 20 and we also know that more men than women stopped smoking, which is strange enough.

We thought that with Women's Lib they had become the equals of men. Unless we have proof to the contrary, as regards cigarette smoking, we shall have to say that they still belong to the weaker sex.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, it is important for us to say to pregnant women for instance, that if they smoke like chimneys during their pregnancy, their children will be smaller. That is true, it is a fact ascertained by doctors. If pregnant women smoke more than normally, it could affect child-birth during delivery.

We studied this cigarette issue in all of its details and I encourage those who have not read it yet, to look at the report which was tabled, and I hope that, some day, it will be removed from the shelves where it is gathering dust and shown to the public and to the world. I do not really care because I do not intend, and I do not think the Canadian government intends, to influence any country. If at least we could have enough wisdom and shrewdness to convince people by all the means at our disposal that cigarette is the No. 1 killer in Canada, that it is at the root of the most devastating and killing diseases, particularly heart and lung diseases. We would have accomplished something. We must try to do something by any means, by legislative action if needs be, even though I do not like the phrase "pass legislation". We are supposed to live in a free world, we are supposed to be free and intelligent; then we should not need legislation to say: You are going to do this, you will not do that, and if you do not do that you will be punished, you will pay a fine and so on.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great country. We have good members in this House, members who, in their own field, are always working in the best interests of Canada. I congratulate those who have given the House of Commons a chance to make statements, to consider the various bills introduced in that respect. I also congratulate my colleague and friend, the member for Surrey-White Rock, especially since he is a journalist, for doing the utmost to help Canadians keep their brains "unclouded" for the rest of their life.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Order. The hour appointed for consideration of private members' business has now expired. It being five o'clock, pursuant to the order adopted Thursday, June 14, 1973, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday.

Have a good weekend.

At 5 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.