

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF WISCONSIN
Archives Division

June 24, 1954

NOTE TO EDITORS:

Notice: This material may
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law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

The enclosures represent background information which may be useful to you in any attention given current discussions on the subject of tobacco and health.

Included are the following:

Statement by Dr. Clarence Cook Little, Scientific Director of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee.

Statement by Dr. Charles S. Cameron, Medical and Scientific Director of the American Cancer Society.

Statement released by the American College of Chest Physicians.

Excerpts from a report made June 22, 1954, to the American Medical Association by Dr. Russell W. Weller, Hahnemann Hospital, Philadelphia.

Excerpt from statement by Dr. Edward J. McCormick, retiring President of the American Medical Association.

An information summary on the Tobacco Industry Research Committee.

A compendium of scientific comment entitled, "A Scientific Perspective on the Cigarette Controversy", was distributed earlier. Additional copies are available on request.

Tobacco Industry Research Committee

STATEMENT BY
DR. CLARENCE COOK LITTLE, SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR
TOBACCO INDUSTRY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

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June 22, 1954

Director of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee.

Dr. Little said, "The preliminary findings of the five-year survey being conducted by the American Cancer Society were shown to me in advance of public release, continuing the cooperative attitude on the part of the Society with the work of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee and its Scientific Advisory Board.

"I have the greatest respect for Doctors Hammond and Horn and am sure that when their completed data are published, they will be of vital interest to scientists.

"Discussion and comment on their data, however, would be more useful when all of the work has been completed and fully analyzed and set forth as is established custom in scientific journals.

"It is interesting to note that Dr. Charles S. Cameron, Medical and Scientific Director of the American Cancer Society, has issued a simultaneous statement to the effect that he is not convinced that the Hammond-Horn theory of cause and effect relationship between heavy cigarette smoking and increased susceptibility to death from cancer in general is as yet entirely proved."

(more)

FOR: TOBACCO INDUSTRY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 1954

The American Cancer Society's survey conducted by Doctors Hammond and Horn on smoking habits and various causes of death points up the need for further extensive research to discover the causes of cancer and cardiovascular disease, it was stated today by Dr. Clarence Cook Little, Scientific Director of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee.

Dr. Little said, "The preliminary findings of the five-year survey being conducted by the American Cancer Society were shown to me in advance of public release, continuing the cooperative attitude on the part of the Society with the work of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee and its Scientific Advisory Board.

"I have the greatest respect for Doctors Hammond and Horn and am sure that when their completed data are published, they will be of vital interest to scientists.

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(more)

From Hill and Knowlton, Inc., Empire State Building, New York 1, N.Y., Lackawanna

"I fully subscribe to this statement as I do to Dr. Cameron's further assertion that 'one cannot at this time exclude the possibility that heavy cigarette smoking and the tendency to cancer are both expressions of a more fundamental cause of a constitutional or hormonal nature.'

"The present dramatic situation emphasizes the need for greatly extended, amplified, and diversified basic research on the relation of various habits of the different types of human beings to their health and well-being throughout their life cycle.

"The origin, nature, and development of cancer and of cardiovascular disease are complex problems, offering the greatest existing challenge to creative scientific thought and to further experimentation wisely conceived, patiently executed, and fearlessly and impartially interpreted in our search for the truth.

"The Tobacco Industry Research Committee has unqualifiedly given to its Board of scientific advisors and to the present Director of Research complete freedom of thought and action. This freedom will be jealously guarded by the industry and by the scientists concerned in the hope and belief that human welfare can thus be best and most rapidly advanced."

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, INC.
47 Beaver Street
New York 4, New York

Statement of Dr. Charles S. Cameron
Medical and Scientific Director

The report of Doctors Hammond and Horn, and the exhibit summarizing their report are the first published data based on the large-scale survey of smoking practice among some 187,000 healthy men. The first of its kind ever attempted, it is being carried out with the assistance of 22,000 volunteers in 394 counties scattered throughout the United States, and is now in the 29th month. The correlation of the smoking practices of these many thousands of subjects - recorded while they were alive and in good health - with the causes of their deaths as they occur has provided important information in advance of the time schedule originally estimated. Furthermore, it is information so clearly valid - beyond any question of statistical error - that it appeared to warrant publication at this time. While the observed correlation between heavy cigarette smoking and the likelihood of death from cancer of the lung and from cardiovascular disease was perhaps not astonishing, the degree of that relationship was. In addition, deaths from forms of cancer other than the lung appear to be associated with heavy cigarette smoking, thus opening up new considerations of the mode of action of the carcinogen, if any, contained in tobacco smoke.

Personally I am not convinced that the Hammond-Horn theory of cause and effect relationship between heavy cigarette smoking and increased susceptibility to death from cancer in general is as yet entirely proved. One cannot at this time exclude the possibility that heavy cigarette smoking and the tendency to cancer are both expressions of a more fundamental cause of a constitutional or hormonal nature.

Whatever interpretation is put on the evidence brought forth by this study, the data themselves and the methodology employed to get them are sound. The results appear to be of first importance in consideration of the changing death rates of the past 25 years. If further validated, they point the way to the means of still further lengthening man's life-span.

June 17, 1954

STATEMENT BY
DR. CHARLES S. CAMERON, MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF WISCONSIN
Archives Division

June 17, 1954

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decades is of serious concern to the medical profession, particularly to the chest physicians. Such an increase in the incidence of lung cancer makes it mandatory that every effort be exercised to establish the causative factors that may be responsible.

While many theories have been advanced, further work must be carried out before any single agent or agents can be definitely implicated. Early diagnosis remains our greatest weapon in combatting this disease.

As the result of intensive research, many new methods have been developed to assist the physician in early diagnosis of cancer of the lung. Our most important ally in dealing with this menace is the family physician who sees the patient early in the course of this disease and who makes available the necessary diagnostic techniques.

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CHEST PHYSICIANS
112 EAST CHESTNUT STREET • CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The alarming rate of increase of cancer of the lung in the past few decades is of serious concern to the medical profession; but particularly to the chest physicians. Such an increase in the incidence of lung cancer makes it mandatory that every effort be exercised to establish the causative factors that may be responsible.

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Excerpt from Statement by Dr. Edward J. McCormick

Retiring President of the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
(From the New York Post, June 23, 1954)

"We'll have to do a little more watching and experimenting and research to find out the cause of lung cancer," he said. "I don't think, either, that there is any proof of a link between cigarets and other kinds of cancer--stomach cancer, cancer of the colon, and so on.

"People who don't smoke cigarets have these kinds of cancer, too. We have to have an open mind and not get off the hook until we know what we are doing."

EXCERPTS FROM

"LIFETIME CIGARETTE SMOKE EXPOSURE IN A COLONY OF C-57 BLACK MICE"

BY RUSSELL W. WELLER, M.D., HAHNEMANN HOSPITAL, PHILADELPHIA

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING, SAN FRANCISCO

JUNE 1954

"The recently renewed and vigorous publicity given to tobacco smoke as a prime suspect in the search for an etiologic agent responsible for the increasing incidence of lung cancer demands of the medical profession a meticulous and properly coordinated scientific investigation which must be devoid of personal prejudice.

"The efforts that have already been expended in this field are essentially limited to two widely differing approaches; namely, a study of the effects of tobacco smoke or its concentrated constituents on animal skin, on animal lungs, and secondly, statistical studies of the incidence of lung cancer in various groups of smokers and non-smokers. The experimental animal studies have yielded little of value in knowledge applicable to human lung cancer, and the statistical studies, although suggestive of some correlation between the amount of tobacco smoked and lung cancer, leave a wide chasm of unexplored pathological phenomena yet to be explained.

"In an effort to avoid some of the most serious difficulties experienced in previous animal studies, the author has used experimental animals (C-57 mice) more comparable with man in their incidence of lung cancer. Measured amounts of tobacco smoke were used and exposure was continued from the age of mouse 'adolescence' until natural death (up to 23 months). Complete gross and microscopic autopsy studies were performed on both the control and exposed animals. When an exposed animal died, a control animal was killed and vice-versa.

(Excerpts: Dr. Weller)

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"... the important focal point of the entire study is the incidence of lung cancer in these animals. One primary lung tumor in a group of 132 mice of this type falls in the normal range of statistical expectancy. The fact that this one tumor occurred in an exposed mouse is therefore of little importance. However, the absence of a significantly increased incidence of lung cancer in these heavily exposed animals is indeed contrary to most of the recent reports dealing with the effects of cigarette smoke exposure in animals. The reasons for this discrepancy appear to be primarily dependent on two factors: (1) Most of the investigations reporting a high incidence of lung tumors have exposed animals having a much higher natural occurrence of lung cancer than the animals used here which are more comparable with man in their tendency to develop lung tumors. (2) The possible carcinogenic properties of natural smoke, rather than its concentrated distillation products (which neither man nor his animals friends are presently accustomed to inhaling) have been investigated in this study.

"The effects of cigarette smoking on the human respiratory tract as seen at post mortem examination are to date comparable to the findings in this mouse study and will be the subject of a separate report."

A Treat Instead

It is refreshing to read that the tobacco industries have put up half a million dollars and hired a cancer expert to make a "no strings attached" study of the connection, if any, between smoking and health, particularly heart disease and cancer.

Dr. Clarence Cook Little, director of the study, has said the scientists will be given complete freedom in all phases of their work and can even publish their findings in scientific journals without first submitting reports to the tobacco industry.

If any injurious elements are found in tobacco, Dr. Little said, the scientists may be employed to find how to eliminate them.

News of the cigarette study is proof once again of the immense power for good of private capital, which devotes millions of dollars annually to research which serves the public by finding better ways to make better products.

The news also brings the hope that the tobacco industry is beginning to take medicine a little more seriously than is indicated by all the white-coated, stethoscoped young men in the TV commercials.

(From the Auburn, N. Y., Citizen-Advertiser, June 18, 1954)

Tobacco Industry Research Committee
5400 Empire State Building
New York 1, New York
Lackawana 4-1440

Purpose of Committee--(formation announced January 4, 1954) is to initiate and support impartial scientific research into all phases of tobacco in relation to human health and make findings public.

Members of Committee--are: The American Tobacco Company, Inc.; Benson & Hedges; Bright Belt Warehouse Association; Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation; Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association; Larus & Brother Company, Inc.; P. Lorillard Company; Philip Morris & Co. Ltd., Inc.; R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company; Stephano Brothers, Inc.; Tobacco Associates, Inc.; Burley Auction Warehouse Association; Maryland Tobacco Growers Association; United States Tobacco Company; Burley Stabilization Corporation.

Seven Member Scientific Advisory Board--organized to direct the allocation of research funds provided by the Committee. Scientific Director of Committee and Chairman of Board is Dr. Clarence Cook Little, internationally known scientist, former university president, also Director of Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine. He will divide time between Laboratory and work of Committee. Other Board members are: Dr. McKean Cattell, Professor, Head of Department of Pharmacology, Cornell University Medical College, New York City; Dr. Leon Jacobson, Professor of Medicine, University of Chicago, Director, Argonne Cancer Research Hospital, Chicago; Dr. Paul Kotin, Assistant Professor of Pathology, University of Southern California Medical School, Los Angeles; Dr. Kenneth Merrill Lynch, President, Dean of Faculty, Professor of Pathology, Medical College of South Carolina, Charleston; Dr. Stanley P. Reimann, Scientific Director, The Institute for Cancer Research, Director, The Lankenau Hospital Research Institute, Philadelphia; Dr. William F. Rienhoff, Jr., Associate Professor of Surgery, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore.

Initial fund of \$500,000 for remainder of 1954 has been provided for allocation by Board. No industry funds will be given to tobacco company laboratories. Committee regards support as long-term commitment and has assured the Scientific Advisory Board that it will provide substantial additional funds for specific projects upon advice of the Board.

Board has complete freedom to select institutions or individuals to receive grants. Those institutions or individuals may publish their findings independently in accordance with accepted research and scientific practice.