

CANCER EXPERTS DIFFER AT INQUIRY

House Unit Hears Both Sides
of the Cigarette Story—
Other Diseases Cited

By BESS FUEMAN

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WASHINGTON, July 18—The controversy over whether cigarette smoking was a causative factor in lung cancer was aired today before a Congressional committee.

Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond of the American Cancer Society testified today that in his opinion smoking caused not only lung cancer but a long list of other diseases.

On lung cancer, he said, the evidence "is overwhelming." But he said smoking was not the only cause. Dr. Hammond was the co-author of a recent lung-cancer study that linked cigarettes to the disease.

Dr. Clarence Cook Little of Tobacco Research Industry committee contended that no cause-and-effect relationship had been proved either in lung cancer or "the over-all mixture of human ailments" mentioned by Dr. Hammond.

Dr. Little said the high lung cancer death rate among excessive smokers might be because "the type of person who is an excessive smoker is a poor health risk—he has more accidents, more ailments."

Coronary Disease Included.

The diseases listed by Dr. Hammond, and questioned by Dr. Little included cancer of the larynx, lip, tongue and esophagus, coronary artery disease, cerebral vascular lesions and other circulatory diseases, peptic ulcer and respiratory diseases, such as pneumonia and asthma.

The hearing was conducted by the legal and monetary affairs subcommittee of the House Government Operations Committee. It is the first of a series to find if Government agencies are protecting the people properly.

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The hearing was conducted by the legal and monetary affairs subcommittee of the House Government Operations Committee. It is the first of a series to find if Government agencies are protecting the people properly against false advertising claims on cigarette filters, on reducing drugs, and on tranquilizers. The Federal agencies involved are the Post Office Department, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Food and Drug Administration.

The committee room was far from being smoke-filled. Mr. Blatnik took a few puffs on each of a series of cigarettes. Representative George Meader, Republican of Michigan, let his pipe go out and had to relight. Nobody else smoked at the committee table. Only two were smoking at the press table, where a score were seated. Both were women.

In a related development today, Dr. William A. Smith, executive secretary of the Cancer Prevention Committee of New York, testified that the Federal Government's National Cancer Institute, after protests from chemical companies, had abandoned a study aimed at determining the extent to which chemicals might cause cancer.

He testified, too, that he had failed to be reappointed as associate professor at New York University after he had called attention to data indicating a cancer hazard for men employed in a certain industry. Dr. Smith did not specify the industry. He appeared at hearings on pending bills to protect against chemical additives in foods. Dr. Smith will take the stand again tomorrow.

Representative John Bell Williams of Mississippi, chairman of the Commerce subcommittee considering the additive bill, later said these charges were serious and would "bear looking into." But he said the committee felt its first duty was to consider the additive bills.

Meanwhile, Senator John Sherman Cooper, Republican of Kentucky, told the Senate it was not competent to judge what effect smoking had on lung cancer. He protested bills introduced yesterday to end Government price supports on tobacco and to require health warnings on cigarette labels.

U. S. Aide Denies Pressure.

WASHINGTON, July 18 (AP)—Dr. John P. Heller, director of the National Cancer Institute, labeled Dr. Smith's charge "simply not correct."

He said neither the United States Public Health Service nor the Cancer Institute "has stopped any studies because anybody brought pressure."

He said the Cancer Institute, an agency of the Health Service, actually had been expanding its studies of environmental cancer—the type on which Dr. Smith said work had been halted.

N. Y. U. Disputes Charge.

Dr. George E. Armstrong, vice president and chief of medical affairs at New York University, said last night that the data referred to by Dr. Smith had been investigated and that the charges were not substantiated. Dr. Smith's failure of reappointment last June, Dr. Armstrong said, was "a routine matter."