

conducted through smoking dog studies, as well as through careful autopsies on individuals where smoking history was well recorded, and where the bronchi were serially sectioned and examined. If you smoke 10 to 15 of the 1 mg. tar cigarettes, there are no carcinogenic hazards associated with that. We don't even see the premalignant changes in the epithelium; so that here is the most carcinogenic substance that is massly used and there is, decidedly, a threshold.

Similarly, there are thresholds with alcohol. Alcohol and cigarette smoke are synergistic and together if you smoke the high-tar cigarettes and drink excessive quantities of alcohol, you find that you can account for 35 percent of the cancer deaths. This type of synergism is rare. Most of the cancers of the mouth, larynx, esophagus and lung are caused by these two factors and they are synergistic. But, again, it has to be with excessive quantities of distilled liquor. It's the alcohol itself, not the congeners or other substances that are found in the drink.

Now, the misconceptions that have been brewing, first in New Jersey, and later in Washington, have aroused not only the ire of you fellows in industry but the ire of University medical scientists who are in the comprehensive and specialized cancer centers such as MIT, Harvard, NYU, Columbia, University of Pennsylvania, McArdle Cancer Center, and others. We are upset at what the Federal government has been doing. Our worry stems from the fact that if society is to listen to the Federal government, it will be led down yet another primrose path, blaming industry, air and water pollution for most of the cancer burden, whereas, in fact, the answers to cancer lie elsewhere and have been very well defined through a great deal of epidemiologic research and extensive laboratory research. Whoever attempts to lead the nation towards less cancer had better be correct, because the selection of the wrong path is the equivalent of leading millions of Americans to certain death.

There were two symposia that were held. One of February 28th, March 1st, and March 2nd, and another one, June 6th, 7th, and 8th in New York City. These two symposia were held by the independent university scientists from the comprehensive and specialized cancer centers in this country. The symposia were under the aegis of the New York Academy of Sciences, and the American Health Foundation, with the cooperation of the American Cancer Society, as well as the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer.

We came up with the following predominant causes of cancer, and the word, "predominant", is important. An analogous situation is that tuberculosis is predominantly caused by the tubercle bacillus. While there are associated factors in causing tuberculosis, for example, poverty, crowding, and malnutrition, the predominant cause is still the tubercle bacillus, and if you want to eliminate that disease, you control the tubercle bacillus. Similarly, in cancer, there are predominant causes. The University scientists decided to sponsor and attend these two symposia, and to continue putting on such symposia as often as is humanly possible, in order to turn around the propaganda machine that has been launched by the Federal government. This machine is leading the country down the wrong path in cancer prevention and is killing many Americans through misinformation.

The University scientists just went through a 15-year period of going up a blind alley looking for cancer viruses that weren't there. That cost a billion dollars. We cannot afford, not in monetary terms or in human terms, to spend another ten years and another billion dollars or more chasing the wrong culprit in cancer causation. There will be too many lives lost, especially when we know most of the answers for prevention at the present time. While we are still ignorant about how exactly a normal cell becomes malignant,

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