

Cancer Society Expert Says Smoking Causes Lung Cancer; Has Effect on Other Diseases

Washington—An American Cancer Society expert told congressional investigators today that cigarette smoking is a cause of lung cancer and has a "severe effect" on a number of other diseases.

Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond, the society's research director, said "evidence that smoking is a serious health hazard has been accumulating slowly since about 1915."

He said recent studies have produced "overwhelming" evi-

dence that cigarette smoking "is causative factor of great importance in the occurrence of lung cancer."

He said there has been an "alarming trend in the death rates from lung cancer," with the number of deaths rising from 2,500 in 1930 to an estimated 29,000 in 1956.

Hammond said cigarette smoking "causes an increase in deaths from heart disease and has a 'severe effect' on patients with peptic ulcers and Buerger's disease."

He also said "there is evidence that smoking has an effect on death rates from respiratory diseases other than lung cancer."

Dr. Clarence Cook Little, chairman of the scientific advisory board to the tobacco industry's research committee, challenged the claims of a cause-and-effect relation between smoking and lung cancer.

In prepared testimony, Little said:

"Non-smokers get lung cancer. The vast majority of heavy smokers never get lung cancer."

Obviously there is no simple cause-and-effect mechanism resulting from cigarette smoking."

Earlier, Rep. Iris F. Blitch (D-Ga.) said Subcommittee Chairman John Blatnik (D-Minn.) has assured her that he is for the tobacco growers and has no wish to penalize them in any way. Mrs. Blitch said Blatnik told her his subcommittee hearings are not intended to effect tobacco price supports.

Neuberger Offers Bill
Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.) Wednesday introduced

a bill that would cut off farm price supports and soil bank payments to tobacco growers.

Neuberger, a non-smoker, said it was ridiculous for the government to warn Americans about alleged dangers of smoking while spending millions of dollars to support tobacco growing.

An Agriculture Department spokesman called Neuberger's bill "completely unrealistic."

Should Corn Be Penalized
"If we penalize tobacco because of a possible health danger, are we going to penalize

corn because we make bourbon whiskey out of that grain?" he said.

Blatnik said his subcommittee hopes to determine during six days of hearings whether the public is "being fooled" about the protection afforded to smokers by "filters."

He said the subcommittee wants to determine whether manufacturers have made "false and misleading advertising" about filter cigarettes and, if so, why federal agencies haven't cracked down.



Illinois Parole Board Meets To Decide on Leopold's Freedom Bid

Springfield, Ill. — The Illinois Pardon and Parole Board met today in a session that could start notorious "thriller" Nathan Leopold on the road to freedom.

Leopold, 32, has spent 33 years behind bars for one of the most memorable crimes in American history—the senseless murder of 14-year-old Bobby Franks.

Now in poor health with heart trouble and diabetes, Leopold last week appealed to the board for executive clemency so he could spend his remaining years as a free man.

"I earnestly beg of you to show me the mercy I did not show," he wrote in his last-ditch appeal. "I beg you to permit me to spend my few remaining years in the free world."

Board Chairman Franklin U. Stransky met with his aides Wednesday in preparation for today's formal meeting of the five-man group.

Stransky said Leopold's appeal was on the board's agenda for the closed meeting. The board's recommendation will be presented to Gov. William G. Stratton, who alone has the power to grant Leopold's plea.

The recommendation will not be made public for weeks, until after Stratton acts. The governor is not required to follow the board's recommendation.

There was no indication here as to how the board would rule, but Illinois Paroles Superintendent T. Edward Austin hinted Leopold "could be freed" in a matter of weeks.

Austin, who is not a member of the board, said the board's membership has changed and

its decision now could "go either way."

Previous boards refused to grant parole in 1953 and rejected appeals for reconsideration twice since.

In a statement to newsmen at a convention in Denver, Colo., Austin said Leopold could win freedom if Stransky voted for him and tipped the board into a 3-2 decision in Leopold's favor.

Among those supporting Leopold's plea last week were poet Carl Sandburg, mystery writer Erle Stanley Gardner and author Meyer Levin, who wrote the novel "Compulsion," which is based on the Franks case.

Several of Leopold's University of Chicago classmates also backed his appeal.

Leopold and his closest friend, Richard Leob, both wealthy and brilliant college students, decided to commit a perfect crime for thrills. They kidnaped Bobby Franks, son of family friends, killed him in a car and disposed of his body in a culvert near Chicago.

The two were caught and were sentenced to life plus 99 years. Leob was killed in a brawl at Stateville Penitentiary in 1936.

Former Gov. Adlai E. Stevenson reduced Leopold's sentence to 65 years in recognition for his work as a "human guinea pig" in malaria experiments during World War II.

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Californian Drowns In Bandon Accident

Bandon — David Charles Coburn, 32, Long Beach, Calif., was presumed drowned about 10:45 p.m. Tuesday when a 10-foot skiff in which he was fishing with a companion capsized.

Coburn and his companion, Franz Shindler, Bandon, were pulling in a herring net in the Coquille river when their small boat overturned.

Shindler clung to the boat and Coburn apparently tried to swim to shore. The cries of the men were heard by men on the Cynthia Olson, moored several hundred yards away.

The area was searched all night, and a net was stretched across to prevent the body from being washed out to sea.

Coburn is survived by his wife in Long Beach, to whom he had made a telephone call just before going fishing.

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