

VISIT TO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
OTTAWA, 3RD NOVEMBER 1970

Present: Dr. J.M. LeClair (Deputy Minister, Health)
Dr. E.A. Watkinson (Director-General, Health)
Dr. H. Colburn (Tobacco Studies)
Mr. L.C. Laporte
Sir Charles Ellis
Dr. D.G. Felton

Although the Deputy Minister, a fairly recent appointment, could only spare 30 minutes (which in fact he stretched to nearly 40 minutes), the meeting continued with Watkinson and Colburn for about two hours in all.

Once the introductions had been made, LCL invited DGF to describe the effort by the Tobacco Industry in the UK and Europe. A bird's-eye conspectus was made and the following major points emerged during the discussion.

1. When DGF referred to bioassay, LeClair interrupted to ask whether humans were employed for this, indicating, perhaps, a view that animal tests were meaningless.
2. This gave DGF the opportunity to mention the work of the Puffing and Inhaling group and the importance of establishing how people smoke and whether they change their smoking pattern, with a modified cigarette. The need to dissociate tar and nicotine was made and the significance of these views in the context of "league tables" was underlined, particularly since changes in smoking pattern (puff volume, airflow velocity, etc.) could affect both the chemical and biological properties of smoke condensate. The Deputy Minister appeared to be impressed by these arguments, which were clearly new to him.
3. DGF was asked if products had been modified in the UK, and in reply explained the low tar - normal nicotine philosophy. The change in tax laws in the past summer meant that reconstituted tobacco could be used and the bioassay tests in

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progress on materials made by different processes were mentioned. It was pointed out that, originally, reconstitution had an economic stimulus but now offered a new dimension in product control.

4. Colburn raised the question of synthetics, but DGF evaded this by saying that this currently fell under product development and was not a subject for pooling in TRC.
5. The importance of nicotine was stressed, with reference to the Thompson series of experiments which showed people tended to adjust their nicotine intake by the way they smoked. Colburn said he was not convinced that the experiment had been well planned with adequate control.
6. Colburn mentioned the Fletcher experiments and DGF outlined the situation, drawing attention to the crudity of the measurements made but which, nevertheless, had indicated differences in response to different products. It was stressed that some of the animal bioassays were more sensitive. Again, the need to establish how people smoked these products was emphasised.
7. CDE outlined the approach on "Bridging the Gap" which the Deputy Minister misinterpreted. When the correct meaning had been explained, he appreciated the aim but was non-committal.
8. Colburn mentioned the inhalation studies by Dontenwill, which he believed would ultimately lead to definite malignancy. DGF said TRC were trying a second approach, but would be prepared to switch to whatever seemed the most valuable test. The difficulty of devising a reliable way of administering definite doses of whole smoke repeatedly was mentioned.
9. LCL again extended an invitation for Watkinson and/or Colburn to tour the Industry and Company facilities in the UK and Europe. They said that they would bear it in mind but that they were busy men. Jokingly, Watkinson said Colburn was afraid of becoming "contaminated" if he accepted the invitation.

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10. Colburn asked DGF if he had had a preview of the RCP Report and DGF denied this, but said it was to be expected before the end of 1970. Instead, DGF showed him a copy of the TRC Review of Activities, and offered to arrange for a copy to be sent to Colburn via LCL.
11. Colburn and Watkinson questioned LCL regarding the launch of a fatter cigarette, HUDSON. Colburn drew attention to a news item in Tobacco Reporter on the launch in Germany by B-AT of KIM, said to be aimed at the non-smoking German woman. Neither topic could be usefully discussed.

General Impressions

The meeting was cordial, animated and apparently achieved several useful objectives.

The Deputy Minister was somewhat reserved, scholarly and with an acute mind. He is clearly anti-smoking but recognises that people will continue to smoke.

Watkinson was genial and a bit quizzical. He is currently preoccupied with the Deputy Minister in arranging for a new Department of Environment. He seems essentially open-minded.

Colburn is a huge man, cold in his approach and distinctly anti-smoking. He is an ex-smoker. He did not give any impression of wishing to recognise industry's difficulties. Essentially a Godber-type mind, though CDE did get him to concede that a man's life should be judged by the number of "Happy Days" rather than merely by "Days".

DGF/SEW/5.3

11th November, 1970

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