

FOR: TOBACCO INDUSTRY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

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HARTNETT CITES BRITISH TOBACCO TESTS

FAILING TO PRODUCE ANIMAL CANCER

Continued failure by British cancer research scientists to induce cancer in laboratory animals with tobacco smoke derivatives, just reported in England, lends support to the position that the search for the cause or causes of lung cancer must be broadened and intensified, Timothy V. Hartnett, chairman of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee, said today.

Mr. Hartnett said the newest report of the British Empire Cancer Campaign tells that several long-term and separate experiments with tobacco smoke and condensates on laboratory animals failed to produce cancer either by prolonged painting, injection or forced inhalation.

The Tobacco Industry Research Committee is sponsoring in this country independent scientific research into tobacco use and health but has no connection whatsoever with the work being conducted under the British Empire Cancer Campaign, Mr. Hartnett pointed out. "However, we naturally follow with interest what the British scientists report on the subject," he said.

Mr. Hartnett said the British Empire Cancer Campaign reported that no cancers were produced by these different experiments:

Painting skins of mice with cigarette tar.

Injecting cigarette tar under the skins of rats and into the bronchus of hamsters.

Injecting tars made from cigarette paper into animals.

Introducing cigarette tars into the oesophagus of mice.

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The results of the experiments were summarized in the official British Empire Cancer Campaign report as follows:

"Attempts have been made to produce cancer in the lung of rats by the direct injection of tobacco tar and also of various carcinogens into the lung.

"At another centre cigarette smoke tar and resin have been injected into the lungs of mice; the few tumours that developed were regarded as spontaneous and in no way due to the effect of the injected material.

"Experiments set up to test for carcinogenicity in cigarette tar by its application to the skin of the mouse have now been completed, with negative results.

"No malignant tumours were obtained either with the whole tar or with the neutral fraction.

"Nor have any tumours as yet appeared in rats injected subcutaneously with fresh cigarette tar, or hamsters which had cigarette tar injected into the bronchus; whilst in other experiments animals injected subcutaneously with the tar resulting from cigarettes made entirely from cigarette paper have shown no tumours.

"In other experiments to test crude tars condensed from cigarette smoke, no skin tumours were obtained in mice painted twice weekly with a 20 per cent. solution of the tar in acetone.

"Using still another route, at another centre, tar obtained in a smoking machine was introduced into the oesophagus of mice, a route of administration which has given a high yield of lung cancer after the introduction of a known carcinogen; no definite carcinoma of the lung has developed to date."