

smoking—to chronic bronchitis, emphysema, lung cancer, pneumonia, and chronic heart disease. As an individual physician I have a particular concern with the effects of air pollution on brain function. Among my patients are some who become dizzy and confused, some stagger. They are apt to become irritable and then drowsy as a result of coming into the center of town. Such people, once their trouble is diagnosed, not only avoid coming into Washington, they even shun the business districts of Bethesda and Silver Spring. I can't help wondering how many fatigued and irritable people have this problem and don't know it.

Sick persons are not the only ones affected by air pollution. Just last March the Journal of the American Medical Association carried a report showing that the performance of runners in races was diminished in proportion to the concentration of certain smog irritants in the air. Effects were noted at levels we have in Washington. I have a copy of that for your record. Thus we have a clear and present need for cleaner air. Our metropolitan population is growing—1,989,000 in 1960, 2,468,000 in 1965. More people means more trash to burn, more heat for homes and other buildings, more automobiles all throwing more waste products into our already overburdened atmosphere. We will have to make significant improvement just to keep even with the present highly unsatisfactory situation.

H.R. 6981 is a broad statement outlining specific problems of importance to this area. The bill also would set conservative limits to certain of our worst sources of pollution. For instance we don't want to become a dumping ground for the cheap sulfur laden heating oil rejected by other jurisdictions. We don't want New York City rejects. This bill, by requiring permits for new heavy duty fuel burning equipment, by specifying standards for smoke emissions and by setting a limit on sulfur content of fuels used, would protect us from this eventuality.

It has been a year now since the Medical Society's statement that closing of the Kenilworth dump and better controls of auto exhausts were urgently needed. The fact that these conditions are still unchanged indicates that present instruments of government are insufficient to break through the inertia of the customary ways we use our air for waste disposal. For this reason the District of Columbia Medical Society endorses H.R. 6981 and begs that its effectiveness not be diminished by substitution of generalities for the specific recommendations made.

Mr. MULTER. Thank you. Your bibliography and the article you referred to, will be made a part of the record.

(The statement follows:)

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HEALTH EFFECTS FROM REPEATED EXPOSURES TO LOW CONCENTRATIONS OF AIR POLLUTANTS

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