

Mr. WINN. I would like to ask an unusual question but I have a thought behind it. Other than the 20% of us who are allergic, what part of the anatomy of the remaining non-allergic 80% would be first affected by air pollution? Let us say, downtown in the District. The eyes, the nose, the throat, the lungs?

Dr. KAILIN. Probably the eye would be first to be appreciated by the person.

Mr. WINN. You mean watering of the eyes or irritation?

Dr. KAILIN. Burning and irritation.

Mr. WINN. Do you think this would have anything to do with accidents?

Dr. KAILIN. It might, but I haven't seen any figures that nail the point down. There has been a question of interference with vision. I have seen this reported and the question has been raised whether interference of vision increased the driving safety. Interfering with vision can be a physical thing. You get the haze in the atmosphere. What happens to the person, his eyes water and tear.

Mr. WINN. Would you do an additional study for us? Would you interview a few more people that live in the outskirts of town and come into the District to work? That category of people you don't seem to be covered in your survey.

Dr. KAILIN. I might be able to get that.

Mr. WINN. I am referring to people who live in Maryland and Virginia, away from the downtown.

Dr. KAILIN. I can tell you this. I asked Dr. Eugene Higgins, who is a nose and throat specialist who happened to call in yesterday when we were in the middle of doing all this—I asked him to check the patients coming into his office. He interviewed twelve, most of whom live in the suburbs and work in the District. All twelve felt that the pollution irritated their eyes and their noses.

Mr. WINN. Downtown?

Dr. KAILIN. Yes, and reported that in most instances when they have most discomfort other people in their offices also complained. Half of them said that when they have difficulty, their families out in the suburbs had difficulty with their eyes.

Mr. WINN. I'm trying to find out if there is any relief when they go home away from downtown.

Dr. KAILIN. I don't have that for you. I have the strong impression this is the case, particularly some persons who are trying to get away from air pollution.

Mr. WINN. Thank you.

Mr. MULTER. I suggest it might be well if we asked HEW to make a survey of a number of employees in Government in various departments in the District and ask them to indicate whether they live in the District or out of the District and ask this same question.

Mr. WINN. A very good idea. I would appreciate it.

Mr. MULTER. It would seem to me that the D.C. Medical Society can render a real service here if they would make a survey or send a questionnaire to some of its members who specialize in eye, nose, throat and lung diseases. I know all physicians are interested in not only treating the patients but also trying to determine what causes the illness. I think we might get some valuable information from that. Would you undertake that for us? Or ask the Society to do it?