

Inventor Tells of New Cigarette

A New York inventor said yesterday that he has developed a new type of cigarette that would nullify cancer-producing elements in cigarette smoke and polluted air.

Nelson J. Waterbury, the inventor, was in Winston-Salem yesterday to discuss his invention with tobacco company officials.

Since Vitamin A has been found to inhibit the development of lung cancer in laboratory animals, Waterbury conceived the idea of introducing it into cigarettes.

He said the Vitamin A droplets inhaled by a smoker would neutralize the carcinogens in the smoke that produce cancer in the lungs.

Stresses Vitamin A

In addition, said Waterbury, the Vitamin A particles would nullify carcinogens already lodged in the lungs as a result of air pollution or previous smoking.

"It is conceivable that we may soon develop a cigarette that has more beneficial than deleterious effects," Waterbury said. "In short, we may someday have a cigarette we should smoke."

Waterbury cited a recent report in the New York Times in which Dr. Umberto Saffiotti said tests he conducted showed that Vitamin A inhibited a cancer-producing agent known as benzopyrene.

Saffiotti, a pathologist at the Chicago Medical School, stressed that his findings did not constitute an invitation for cigarette smokers to eat foods rich in Vitamin A.

Tests on Hamsters

Too much of the vitamin, he said, can be harmful to humans. His tests were conducted on hamsters.

Waterbury, who has applied for a patent on his invention, predicted that it would prove a boon to the tobacco industry by helping to remove one of the chief objections to smoking.

The inventor said his process would allow Vitamin A to be put into either filter or nonfilter cigarettes, as well as cigars and pipes.

He said the cost of adding the Vitamin A would be cheap — "a penny a carton at the most, maybe less."

Waterbury said his profession is being an inventor. He said he had invented a bulletproof suit, but the Army had not bought it because the administration is attempting to end the war in Viet Nam.

U.S. Journal
Nov. 3, 1966

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

November 3, 1966.