

Krop case, Lunney bill shake Canada

By HELKE FERRIE

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Ms. Ferrie is Canada's foremost scientific/medical writer and the publisher of KOS INC. in Ontario, which is currently publishing an updated account of the 14-year battle of Canadian environmental physician Dr. Jozef Krop as MALICE AND MEDICINE [400 pp., paperback, \$25 CAN.] In an end-of-the-year press release she details the considerable progress made in changing the medical model of Canada — as in the "Kwinter bill" amendment to the Ontario Medicine Act and recent efforts at the federal level to make certain nutrients are classified as foods and not drugs — but adds that much more needs to be done. — MLC)

CANADA — For more than two decades, Dr. Krop's name has been associated in North America with the politics of medicine. He is best known for his role in helping to launch the popularly known "Kwinter Bill" (after Ontario's Liberal MPP Monte Kwinter), which enshrined patient's freedom of choice in the Medicine Act of Ontario in 2000.

Dr. Krop also contributed in the early 1980's to the World Commission on the Environment (the *Brundtland Report*), and his practice was used by the Ontario government to begin the process of establishing guidelines for dealing with environmental causes of illness (the 1985 *Thomson Report*). He also participated in various university and federal government - sponsored efforts to raise awareness of the environment's impact on population health.

In the 1980's he was a co-founder, and for many years served as the secretary of the Canadian Society for Environmental Medicine.

As is the fate of many pioneers, he spent more than a decade defending environmental medicine in a disciplinary trial initiated against him by the Ontario medical licensing authority, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.

The CPSO based their prosecution not on patient complaints (there were none), adverse treatment outcome (they admitted all files studied showed the patients had improved), but alleged that practicing environmental medicine "lacked acceptable scientific evidence."

The CPSO then ensured that such scientific evidence appeared indeed to be missing by totally ignoring its existence when

handing down their final 1999 decision. Many of those hundreds of scientific articles, all from the mainstream medical journals, provided by the defense lawyers during the trial, are now part of the reference section in this book.

Of course, this throwback to medieval doctrinal wars and its legal instrument, the Inquisition, begins to make some sense when one realizes that the majority of CPSO council members are either directly or indirectly connected to the pharmaceutical and pesticide industry.

Dr. Krop's trial is legally, politically, and medically one of the great scandals in medical history. His patients and supporters fortunately believed in this cause and footed most of the defense bill which, over that long decade of the trial, reached almost CAN \$2 million.

However, due to this immense effort and the involvement of so many first-class lawyers, the legal profession became sensitized to the abuse of process and law the CPSO and other regulatory bodies committed without ever being checked.

Today there are many lawyers working for many more innovative doctors and defending medicine properly. Before the Krop case

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While all these shifts in understanding are very encouraging indeed, this is not the time for complacency. Nutritional and environmental medicine is still under attack because its claims, research and success are a fundamental threat to the pharmaceutical and pesticide industry.

As Cornell University's ecologist and cancer expert Sandra Steingraber has pointed out, the world's economy is "chemically addicted," and that the health of the world is endangered by nothing as much as by that "toxic trespass" committed without our knowledge, and often against our will, by a chemical industry in conscious disregard of the biological requirements and biochemical integrity of humanity.

Similarly, the drug industry's products are now, due to their serious adverse "side" effects, considered to be the second most frequent cause of death. Clearly, we have a long way to go before doctors and patients become free from quick-fix delusions and understand that health is a matter of prevention, proper nutrition, and therapies that work with nature.

The fact that a book such as this one sells well and that all of the above (and much more) is published by the mainstream medical journals, and supported by standard national and international medical organizations, indicates that a big change is happening. People are taking charge and thinking critically.

Fortunately, the Internet ensures that information cannot be buried as it used to be and high-speed communication has created something of a level playing field for health activists.

Yet, there are many actions still ongoing which are of grave importance and require our determined support. For example, the international battle being waged against CODEX, the international regulatory body controlled by the pharmaceutical companies: it seeks to make all nutraceuticals available by prescription only.

Another important and parallel cause is that championed by Canadian federal MPP Dr. J. Lunney and his courageous and timely effort (Bill C 420) which seeks to prevent Health Canada from gaining control over food supplements. In view of Health Canada's track record with regard to drug approval and its efforts to prevent information on food safety from becoming publicly known, they certainly don't need to control nutraceuticals as well.

In antiquity it was believed that the source of medical knowledge was divine and that the ability to practice medicine was a gift granted by the god of medicine himself, Asklepios. By definition gods are immortal and divine truth cannot be destroyed and, therefore, will once again make us free.

Japanese MD marks 11 years with Gersonism

JAPAN, MEXICO — Yoshihiko Hoshino MD, teaching professor at the Fukushima Medical College, Fukushima, Japan, not only is an 11-year survivor on the nutrition-based Gerson program for advanced cancer (colon with liver metastasis) but he has written the first book in Japanese on the therapy.

Moreover, he and two other physicians at the Loma Linda Clinic in Koriyama are reporting good effects with the Gerson therapy against colon, breast, liver, ovarian, prostatic, pancreatic and bladder cancer and malignant lymphoma, he informed Charlotte Gerson Straus, daughter of the therapy's pioneer, the late Max Gerson, last July.

In 1997 Dr. Hoshino informed the Gerson principals — who operate a treatment facility in Mexico — that not only had he "cured" himself with the nutritional approach as well as urine therapy but that he had seen excellent results in a dozen patients.

"Answering a query from the Gerson Institute, Prof. Hoshino sent a message in October 2001 in which he confirmed that he had never had any chemotherapy, having refused it as an option," reported the Gerson Institute.

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