

THE EDWARD GALLOWAY NEWSPAPER REPORTS

EDWARD GALLOWAY

An inquest may be held into the death of Edward Galloway of Deloro, Ontario's Chief Coroner Dr. H.B. Cotnam said recently. Mr. Galloway, who lived near radioactive slag heaps for a number of years, died last summer of lung cancer at the age of 53. The inquest would be the first of its kind in Canada, as an inquest has never been held to investigate a radiation-related death. Prior to his death, Mr. Galloway issued writs against Eldorado Nuclear Ltd. of Port Hope, Deloro Smelting and Refining Co., the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Environment, and the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada. Mr. Galloway charged that carelessness on the part of all five of those bodies was responsible for his contraction of lung cancer.

For 11 years Mr. Galloway, five of his six children, and his wife Sylvia lived beside the Deloro Smelting and Refining Co. Ltd. which ceased operation in 1961. The Atomic Energy Control Board found radiation levels to be 133 times higher than normal in the family's home in Deloro. The Galloways were ordered to move to a provincially-leased home in Marmora in late 1975. Mr. Galloway underwent treatment for lung cancer from February 25, 1975 until his death last summer. He was instructed to receive medical testing in 1975 when the province discovered the unusually high radiation levels. Mr. Galloway told the Marmora Herald last spring that his house was originally purchased from Eldorado Nuclear Ltd. by the Deloro Smelting and Refining Co. in 1969. The house was sold to Mr. Galloway four years later.

Mr. Galloway said the Deloro company bought a quantity of nuclear waste from the Eldorado company, removed the cobalt from it, and used the remaining material to fill a hollow adjacent to the home he subsequently bought. When Mr. Galloway bought the house in 1964 he knew the hollow had been filled, but was unaware that 10 to 15 feet of radioactive waste slag had been used as fill, he told The Herald prior to his death.

The closure order against the Galloway home was issued last fall when a quantity of radioactive ore was reported missing from Eldorado and an investigation was launched. That investigation revealed that radon gas was escaping from the waste used as fill. The closure order specifically states that radon gas does cause lung cancer, Mr. Galloway said in March.

"My family and I were exposed to the radioactive products for 11 years. I feel Deloro Smelting and Refining Co. is careless for dumping it there and the Atomic Energy Board should never have allowed them to handle it," Mr. Galloway stated last spring.

Mr. Galloway had a chest x-ray in 1967 when he was employed at the Deloro mine and no problems were revealed. One of 15 doctors who examined him at the Kingston Cancer Clinic in 1975 attributed his lung cancer to radioactive waste. Other members of the Galloway family were also tested. Doctors told the Galloways at the time that consequences of radiation contamination may not appear for 20 years.

Mr. Galloway incurred further complications as a result of getting treatment for the lung cancer. He suffered from a radiation reaction and sugar diabetes. Ontario Provincial Police officers are investigating the circumstances surrounding Mr. Galloway's death. Dr. Cotnam has predicted that the police investigation will be completed early this month, and the inquest could be held within the next two months. While the closure order issued against the house by Public Health Inspector Dr. J.H.Aitken dated October 31, 1975 said, "Persons who inhabit the said household premises are being subjected to excessive exposure to radiation with consequential risk of developing lung cancer therefrom,"

Dr. Cotnam has said that it would be difficult to prove that radon gas was directly responsible for a death.

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A story which appeared in The MarmoraHerald last spring quoted the late Edward Galloway as saying that carelessness on the part of five bodies -- Eldorado Nuclear Ltd. of Port Hope, Deloro Smelting and Refining Co., the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Environment, and the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada - was responsible for his contraction of lung cancer. Those facts were again quoted in The Herald last week.

Mr. Galloway's widow, Sylvia Galloway, says that Mr. Galloway actually said carelessness could have contributed to his contraction of cancer, but he admitted that he might have suffered from cancer anyway. "

Mrs. Galloway also said that it was incorrectly reported in that story last spring that the house the Galloways purchased in Deloro was originally owned by Eldorado Nuclear Limited. Mrs. Galloway says that in fact, Eldorado never owned the house. It was owned by the Deloro Smelting and Refining Company, from which the Galloways purchased it. We apologize to Mrs. Galloway for any embarrassment this incorrect information may have caused.

An inquest may be held into Mr. Galloway's death. He died last summer at the age of 53 after living near radioactive, slag heaps in Deloro for a number of years

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EDWARD GALLOWAY

A coroner's jury ruled last week in Belleville that Edward Galloway, formerly of Deloro, died July 8, 1976 as a result of cancer which developed from both cigarette smoking and exposure to radon gas.

Mr. Galloway, his wife Sylvia and their children resided beside a radioactive slag disposal site in Deloro for 12 years. The inquest into Mr. Galloway's death was ordered by Ontario's chief Coroner Dr.H.B. Cotnam-. The inquest is believed to have been the first of its kind in Canada, as an inquest has never been held to investigate a radiation-related death.

The coroner's jury made a number of recommendations regarding handling of radioactive wastes, following the four day inquest which ended Friday.

The jury recommended that the federal and provincial governments should work together to ensure that no one is living unknowingly within range of unacceptable levels of radioactivity

anywhere in Canada. Geoffrey Knight of the Atomic Energy Control Board told the inquest that radon gas levels inside and outside the Galloway house, tested in 1975, were higher than normal and very unacceptable. Mr. Galloway was unaware that he was being exposed to levels of radioactivity three and a half times more than the safe amount set by the Atomic Energy Control Board.

The coroner's jury also recommended that a single agency including representatives of both the federal and provincial government should have overall responsibility for monitoring and detecting radiation exposure among members of the public.

It was revealed during the inquest that no government ministry or department had the responsibility to ensure that residents are not harmed unknowingly by radioactive material. Mr. Knight said at the inquest that technically no one is responsible for the public by legislation. The jurisdiction of the Atomic Energy Control Board only extends to protection of people working with atomic energy.

The jury also said that to facilitate more effective investigation of radioactivity complaints, better communication should be developed amongst all government agencies concerned with the problem. This again involves clearly defining responsibility of each level and department of the governments.

The jury also recommended that members of the public who are ordered out of their homes because of dangerous levels of radioactivity, be compensated by the federal and provincial governments. Mr. Galloway's widow Sylvia has been paying for expenses on the house in Deloro which the family was forced to vacate. Since that time, she has been living in accommodation provided by the government, but has never been assured of long term support or restitution. Another recommendation of the jury was that follow up studies should be done for cases involving possible exposure to unacceptable levels of radioactivity.

Finally, the jury decided that methods of transporting radioactive materials should be of a standard type, properly licenced by the AECB, have appropriate markings, and that their movements should be carefully controlled by AECB.

Mr. Galloway did part time work during 1952 driving loads of radioactive ore from Eldorado Nuclear Ltd. to the Deloro plant. The inquest revealed that the workers who transported 5,000 tons of radioactive waste to Deloro Smelting and Refining in the late 1950's did not know the waste was radioactive. They were not told to take precautions.

The final witness to testify at the inquest Dr. Ernest Letourneau of the Department of Health and Welfare, said there will be a country-wide study conducted this year to determine the normal level of radon gas naturally occurring in houses.