

WORLD

11:44am March 26, 2015

Lobbyist refuses glass of water containing carcinogen despite saying its safe

March 26, 2015: A lobbyist for a weed killer company has stormed out of an interview after a reporter made him eat his own words by challenging him to drink a glass of 'harmless' water.

A lobbyist has refused to drink a glass of water containing a potentially cancer-causing pesticide during an interview despite repeatedly claiming the chemical is completely harmless.

Dr Patrick Moore, a Canadian lobbyist employed by farming products manufacturer Monsanto, was being interviewed on French television as part of an investigation into genetically modified foods when the interviewer asked him about the evidence linking glyphosate to an increased risk of cancer.

Glyphosate is a key ingredient in the Monsanto product Roundup, a pesticide used mainly to kill weeds.

The use of the pesticide has reportedly increased in South America since the development of genetically modified crops, which are resistant to it.

"I do not believe that glyphosate (in water) in Argentina is causing increases in cancer. You can drink a whole (litre) of it and it won't hurt you," Dr Moore says.

The interviewer then surprises Dr Moore by offering him a glass of water containing glyphosate.

"I'd be happy to (drink it) actually. Not really, but I know it wouldn't hurt me, I'm not stupid," Dr Moore says.

"So, it's dangerous, right?" the interviewer responds.



Glyphosate is widely used in farming and has been found to "probably" increase risk of cancer. (Getty)

"No, people try to commit suicide all the time but they fail fairly regularly," Dr Moore replies, while nervously glancing at the camera.

"It's not dangerous to humans, no."

He continues to refuse the interviewer's offer to drink a glass of the contaminated water, before abruptly ending the interview.

"You're a complete jerk," Dr Moore says as he starts to storm out of the room.

"Yeah, that's a good way to solve things," the interviewer sarcastically replies.

The heated exchange comes after a new report by the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer found there was an increased rate of cancer among people who were exposed to glyphosate through their work, leading the agency to conclude the chemical was "probably carcinogenic to humans".

Dr Moore was a leading activist for environmental protection giant Greenpeace during the 1970s, before turning his back on the environmental movement in the mid-1980s due to its "extremism and political agendas".

He has since become a well-known corporate lobbyist and climate change sceptic.

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Read more at <http://www.9news.com.au/world/2015/03/26/11/44/lobbyist-refuses-glass-of-water-containing-carcinogen-despite-saying-its-safe#3EQXIt0Y5yO6Hy0A.99>