

MEMORANDUM

July 27, 1990

To: Samuel D. Chilcote, Jr.
From: Walter N. Woodson
Subj.: Federal Excise Tax Contacts

FET

BOLD PRINT = RECENT UPDATE/NEW INFORMATION

As you know, federal excise tax meetings are being lined up by our field staff, state lobbyists and others with key members of Congress. Here is a report on completed contacts.

SENATE CONTACTS

Pryor (D-AR)

- o Excise tax position -- would vote for excises as part of leadership package
- o On 7/18 TI lobbyist Bosson and wholesalers Gill and Skelton met with Pryor. While he said he personally opposed excises, Pryor feels that across the board excise increases will be part of a package. Pryor said summiteers are currently trying to find \$50 billion in savings (mainly military) and \$50 billion in revenue increases. He said that while Senator Mitchell was firmly opposed to excises, he may not really have a choice. Pryor was receptive to the group's argument that a federal increase would hurt Arkansas' ability to raise revenue via the same route.

Bumpers (D-AR)

- o Excise tax position -- leaning against excises
- o On 7/18 Bosson, Gill and Skelton met with Bumpers' staff. Staff believes that no decision will be made before December. Staff also said that the Senator would find a tax package that included excises "very distasteful." One staffer said Bumpers would not vote for any package that contained excise tax increases.

Dodd (D-CT)

- o Excise tax position -- unstated
- o On 7/17 TI lobbyist Spellacy met with Dodd. Dodd believes any package will include cigarette excise increases. Dodd said

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that industries like the tobacco industry should negotiate a number now because those who attempt to blow the tax package apart will "pay in the long run."

Heflin (D-AL)

- o Excise tax position -- would vote for excises as part of overall package
- o On 7/13 TI lobbyist Whitesell met with Heflin.

Ford (D-KY)

- o Excise tax position -- firmly opposed
- o During the NATD meeting in Washington in mid-July, wholesalers Ernie Sears and Doug Miksell (at TI's request) met with Ford. Ford said our coalition work was excellent and if we pull this thing off, it will be because we hung in there together as a unified group.

D'Amato (R-NY)

- o Excise tax position -- will support the President
- o TI lobbyist contacted the Senator on 7/10.

Riegle (D-MI)

- o Excise tax position -- leans against excise increases
- o In mid-July TI lobbyist Laughlin met with Riegle who expressed opposition to excises. However, he was concerned that a generally-progressive budget summit package might box him into voting for a package containing excises. Riegle reminded Laughlin that in 1989 he had strenuously opposed a measure to fund anti-drug programs via excises.

Levin (D-MI)

- o Excise tax position -- leans against excise increases
- o Leven expressed views similar to those of Riegle during mid-July conversations with TI lobbyist Laughlin.

Exon (D-NE)

- o Excise tax position -- leaning against excise increases
- o On 7/5 TI lobbyist Bill Peters met personally with Exon.

Exon said he would not support any tax increase that wasn't endorsed by President Bush. In addition, Exon said that a doubling, or even tripling, of excises on tobacco and beer would not raise enough money to justify such a tax whack on "the little guy." Peters came away with a favorable impression of Exon's views and felt he would continue to be reasonable on tobacco tax issues.

Breaux (D-LA)

- o Excise tax position -- leaning against excises
- o On 7/5 RVP Ron Morris and RD Pat McWhorter met with the Senator who said that while he was opposed to excises, he would have to withhold a definite anti-excise position until he saw the make-up of any overall tax package.

Cranston (D-CA)

- o Excise tax position -- personally opposes excises, but will go along with any leadership tax package
- o On 7/11 RVP Eagan and a group of California tobacco wholesalers met with Cranston's tax L.A. Carmen Lowery. Lowery said that while Cranston loathes excise taxes, he will not buck a leadership package that includes them.

Rockefeller (D-WV)

- o Excise tax position -- leans in favor of excise increases
- o During weekend of June 29-30, the Senator stayed in the home of TI wholesaler contact M.T. Moss. The Senator said he was waiting on the President to make the first tax move and that he would use any tax increase proposal to embarrass the President politically.
- o Rockefeller would not commit to opposing excise increases and suggested that he might support excise hikes as part of an overall budget deal. It appeared Rockefeller was still basking in the political possibilities from the Bush retreat, and had not focused on his final tax position.

Byrd (D-WV)

- o Excise tax position -- leaning in favor of excise hikes
- o On 7/2, TI-identified wholesaler Moss talked excises for 35 minutes with Byrd, his close friend of 40+ years. Like Rockefeller, Byrd saw the Presidential "lip move" as a chance to stick it to Republicans on the tax/budget situation.

o While Byrd said it wasn't possible to say right now what he would or would not support in the way of tax increases, he did add, "I believe I've done all I can for the tobacco industry." The meaning, I gather, is that he feels he has already gone the extra mile for the industry and will not help if/when it comes down to excise tax increases.

Fowler (D-GA)

o Excise tax position -- opposed

o On June 11, Fowler met personally with TI lobbyist Severin Beliveau, an old friend. Fowler said that he continues to carry into the summit meetings the message that Mitchell opposes excise tax increases.

o Without naming names, Fowler said, essentially, that Congressional summiteers oppose excises and Administration summiteers are against income tax increases. Fowler added that while some within the group see the budget summit on a fast track, he sees no way to reach agreement on a package until after the elections in a lameduck session.

o Fowler said that everything is on the table, but that he had not heard a specific number (i.e., 16 cents) for tobacco. He did say that a gas tax of 30 to 50 cents appeared most acceptable to those around the summit, although no one would admit it publicly. Fowler also said that a VAT is receiving serious consideration, since it's one of the few ways big money can be raised.

o Generally, Fowler expressed serious concern over the deficit. He says that the S&L bailout will cost \$500 billion and that the deficit is actually \$300 billion. The Senator said that if the American people understood the "catastrophic proportions" of this situation, they would "bring down the government."

o A B&W representative, and two BC&T representatives met with Fowler the week on 7/9. Fowler said that while "sin tax" increases were "inevitable," he was willing to work to make them "more equitable." Fowler still believes that it will be November before a deal can be struck and that he is willing to work to get the FET rate as low as possible. During the same time, TI lobbyist Hammock spoke with Fowler and told him the FET on tobacco was of great importance to the people of Georgia. Hammock is to meet personally with Fowler 8/1/90 and needs a briefing at TI from our Federal Division at 2p.m. on 7/31.

Mitchell (D-ME)

- o Excise tax position -- opposed
- o On June 11, state lobbyist Severin Beliveau met personally with Mitchell. Mitchell said he opposes excise tax increases and would continue to convey that message to the summiteers through Fowler. Mitchell said that the Democrats would not be the first to put a tax package on the table.

Bentsen (D-TX)

- o Excise tax position -- leaning against excises
- o On June 11, TI lobbyist Gaylord Armstrong and his law partner Joe Kilgore (Bentsen's campaign manager) spoke personally with Bentsen. The Senator said that Darman was working overtime to prepare a list of tax increase proposals acceptable to the White House by June 22. Bentsen promised to keep our people informed as events unfold.

Robb (D-VA)

- o Excise tax position -- leaning in favor of excise increase
- o In May, the NTC helped line up two potent agriculture-related groups to meet with Robb. In both cases, Robb told them that the budget deficit was his overriding concern, and he would support a tobacco excise tax increase if necessary. Progress was made, I think, in helping Robb understand the devastating effect such a tax would have on the state, especially Southside, Virginia, where most of the state's tobacco is produced.
- o The agribusiness delegation brought letters from Southside bankers, insurance salesmen, automobile dealers and several others. In the letters, correspondents explained that significant portions of their incomes were derived from the tobacco community. Robb seemed concerned and was later provided with economic data on tobacco and Virginia by the Virginia Agribusiness Council president.

Warner (R-VA)

- o Excise tax position -- opposed to increases
- o The same two agricultural groups met with Warner in May. Warner promised to hold firm in opposition, but expressed concern over increased attacks on the industry and wondered out loud

whether President Bush would hold to his pledge.

Baucus (D-MT)

- o Excise tax position -- leaning in favor of increased excises
- o On June 2, Baucus told TI lobbyist Jerry Anderson that he does not favor "substantial increases" in FET rates. The Senator said he would not support higher excises unless they were part of a broad-based tax package. Although he feels that something must be done about the budget deficit and the S&L crisis, Baucus said no agreement could be reached unless the President takes the lead on taxes.

Conrad (D-ND)

- o Excise tax position -- noncommittal
- o In April TI lobbyist Al Wolf met with the Senator. Conrad was undecided, but shared his concern over the effects of increased excises on rural Americans.

Domenici (R-NM)

- o Excise tax position -- leaning against excise increases
- o On June 12, TI lobbyist Bob Barberousse met with Domenici. The Senator said he is opposed to excise tax increases, but would not give an ironclad commitment of opposition because, "something has to be done."

Pressler (R-SD)

- o Excise tax position -- noncommittal
- o On June 13, TI regional vice president Dan Nelson met with Pressler. Nelson, a native of South Dakota, is a former Pressler aide. Pressler said there will be no up or down vote on excises; excises will be part of a package if they come up. He was noncommittal when asked how he would vote on such a package. He did say he would oppose excises should they come up for a free-standing vote.
- o As a matter of information, Pressler had just moderated a meeting with the Surgeon General and others on the Dakota cigarette. During that press conference, Pressler refrained from rhetoric about smoking and health and confined his comments to his concern over the choice of brand name.

o On 6/27, Clarence Skye and other leaders from the National Tribal Chairmen's Association (NTCA) held a reception at which Pressler was the featured guest. Skye and other Indian leaders pressed him on excise taxes, and he indicated that he did not favor such increases and said that he was extremely disappointed in President Bush's recent tax message.

Sasser (D-TN)

- o Excise tax position -- opposed
- o On May 9, TI organized a first-rate agricultural group -- coupled with two key state legislators -- visit with Sasser. He reconfirmed his opposition to excises.

Gore (D-TN)

- o Excise tax position -- noncommittal, leaning in favor of increases
- o The same group met on May 9 with Gore. Gore was noncommittal, but did acknowledge tobacco's importance to the state. However, at a district meeting in Hendersonville, TN, in early June, Gore told the crowd that he favored increased tobacco excises because of concerns over "health and social costs."

Dixon (D-IL)

- o Excise tax position -- unstated
- o On June 12, TI set up a meeting with the Senator and wholesaler leaders Bud Kelley and Dale Burkland. Dixon felt the summit would crumble and no decision would be made until a lameduck session in December. He did say that everything is on the table right now. Kelley and Burkland will meet again with Dixon in mid-July during the NATD conference in Washington.

Roth (R-DE)

- o Excise tax position -- opposed
- o In late May, TI lobbyist Dave Poffenberger met personally with Roth who said he is "steadfast in opposition" to excise tax increases.

Mikulski (D-MD)

- o Excise tax position -- noncommittal
- o In mid-June, Bereano contacted the Senator. No commitment.

Heinz (R-PA)

- o Excise tax position -- favors tobacco excise tax increases
- o In early June PA wholesaler executive Jerry Kupris spoke with Heinz.

Wirth (D-CO)

- o Excise tax position -- undecided
- o On 6/27, Clarence Skye -- director fo the National Tribal Chairmen's Association (NTCA) and leader of the United Sioux Tribes -- spoke personally with Wirth, expressing concern over gasoline and tobacco excise taxes. Wirth, who seemed somewhat surprised by the discussion, said he had not made up his mind on taxes, but would take the Chairman's views under consideration. Dozens of other chiefs were there to second Skye's concerns.
- o As a matter of information, the NTCA represents scores of tribes from 16 states. On 6/27 they adopted an anti-excise tax resolution and will share it with lawmakers from their states.

Symms (R-ID)

- o Excise tax position -- opposes excise tax increases
- o On 6/27, I spoke at length with Symms press aide Taylor Bowlden. Bowlden said Symms was very upset with the Bush statement, but was withholding final judgment until he could "clarify" what Bush really meant. He held out some hope that Bush would back-peddle and redefine his tax increase statement to mean those revenue increases previously proposed. Bowlden couldn't imagine Symms voting for a major tax increase, be it excises or otherwise.

Simpson (R-WY)

- o Excise tax position -- leans in favor of increases
- o On 6/19, TI lobbyist Bill Thomson met personally with Simpson. Simpson said as a member of leadership, it was up to

him to sell the President's program on Capitol Hill; thus, he would support the President. More recently (6/28), Simpson told Thomson that he believes Bush has always been favorably disposed toward two tax increases: user fees and excise taxes.

- o To help continue contacts with Simpson, the WY Tobacco & Candy Association has invited the Senator to address its convention in mid-August. In addition, constituents (TAN and others) have been encouraged to express their excise tax concerns in writing to the Senator.

Wallop (R-WY)

- o Excise tax position -- opposed to excise tax increases
- o On 6/20, WY lobbyist Thomson met personally with Wallop. At that time Wallop expressed opposition. During a 6/28 conversation with Thomson, Wallop suggested (much as Symms had) that the President had not changed his tax position and would not opt for taxes other than those previously proposed under other guises. Thomson feels, however, if entitlements and other sacred cows are really put on the table, Wallop would support increased excise hikes to get a chance to cut entitlement programs.

HOUSE CONTACTS

Anthony (D-AR)

- o Excise tax position -- would support excise hikes under certain conditions
- o On 7/18, TI lobbyist Bosson and key wholesalers Skelton and Gill met with Anthony. Anthony said he would support an excise increase only if it was backed by the Democratic leadership as part of a package that included income tax increases.

Hammerschmidt (R-AR)

- o Excise tax position -- opposed to excise tax increases
- o On 7/18, Bosson, Gill and Skelton met with his LA Randi Fredholm who said the Congressman had signed on to an anti-excise tax "letter" and she could not imagine that he would change his mind and vote for excise increases.

Dwyer (D-NJ)

- o Excise tax position -- favors excise increases
- o On 7/2 two TI-located allies met with Dwyer who said that "sin taxes" were inevitable and that "health issues" associated with tobacco and alcohol would play heavily in discussions.

Lewis (R-FL)

- o Excise tax position -- leaning against excises
- o During a mid-July meeting with TI lobbyist Spearman, Lewis expressed opposition to excise tax increases. However, it seemed clear that Lewis would support a tax package that included excises if the President placed pressure on him to do so.

Bunning (R-KY)

- o Excise tax position -- opposed
- o On 7/11 TI-located wholesalers Sears and Miksell met with Bunning who expressed strong opposition.

Hubbard (D-KY)

- o Excise tax position -- opposed
- o On 7/11 Sears and Miksell met with Hubbard.

Hopkins (R-KY)

- o Excise tax position -- opposed
- o On 7/11, Sears and Miksell met with Hopkins.

Downey (D-NY)

- o Excise tax position -- leans in favor of increases
- o On 7/10 TI-backed wholesalers contacted Downey who said he would probably support a package that included "sin taxes." However, Downey suggested his final decision would depend upon Republican willingness to support a tax package and the President's reaction to it.

Martin (R-NY)

- o Excise tax position -- opposed to excises
- o On 7/10 TI-backed wholesalers met with Martin, a beer wholesaler, who opposes excise increases.

McGrath (R-NY)

- o Excise tax position -- opposed
- o On 7/10 TI-backed wholesalers contacted McGrath.

McNulty (R-NY)

- o Excise tax position -- noncommittal
- o On 7/10 TI-backed wholesalers contacted McNulty who promised to review the Neal resolution, but would not commit.

Paxon (R-NY)

- o Excise tax position -- undecided
- o On 7/10 TI-backed wholesalers met with Paxon who agreed to review the Neal resolution, but said he was still undecided on his excise tax position.

Slaughter (D-NY)

- o Excise tax position -- noncommittal
- o TI-backed wholesalers met with the Congresswoman on 7/10.

Soloman (R-NY)

- o Excise tax position -- opposed to increases
- o On 7/10 TI-backed wholesalers met with Soloman.

Bonior (D-MI)

- o Excise tax position -- leans against
- o In mid-July TI lobbyist Laughlin met with Bonior who said that he opposes excises and that any tax package would have to contain a great amount of emphasis on taxing those with the ability to pay. Bonior added that he might be compelled to

support an excise increase if it was in a generally-progressive package.

Dingell (D-MI)

- o Excise tax position -- leans against excises
- o In mid-July TI lobbyist Laughlin met with Dingell who has a deep philosophical concern about excises. Dingell expressed his support for a VAT, but admitted that there was little support for that approach.

Vander Jagt (R-MI)

- o Excise tax position -- opposed to excise increases
- o In mid-July TI lobbyist Laughlin met with Vander Jagt who expressed firm opposition to all excises and pointed out the House Republican Caucus endorsement of a resolution opposing all new taxes this year.

Kennelly (D-CT)

- o Excise tax position -- leans against excises, but will support an agreed-upon summit/tax package
- o On 7/11 TI lobbyist Spellacy spoke at length with Kennelly. Kennelly said that while she's "not in the [summit] room," whatever they come up with will fly, assuming the summitters come up with anything. Kennelly questioned whether excises really raise the sort of money needed and was most receptive to the argument that federal excise increases usurp and hurt traditional state government sources of revenue.

Bustamante (D-TX)

- o Excise tax position -- opposes tobacco excise increases
- o TI lobbyist Gaylord Armstrong met with the Congressman during week of July 4th. In stating his opposition, Bustamante noted that "160 Democrats" had signed a letter stating their opposition to excise taxes. I assume he meant the DSG letter, but I don't know that for certain.

Dorgan (D-ND)

- o Excise tax position -- would support excise increases if

part of a large, generally progressive, package

- o TI lobbyist Al Wolf met with Dorgan and LA Huffman during the week of July 2. While Dorgan would not support excise increases in a free-standing vote, he would vote for a package in which they were included -- provided the package was progressive overall and did not mix in much in the way of tax cuts. This is similar to what we're hearing from a number of moderate-to-liberal Democrats.

- o Dorgan added that he hoped the Farm Bill and any deficit package could be considered separately. Dorgan is apparently concerned that one might be used as leverage on the other. It seems that Dorgan would like the Farm Bill put to bed before budget questions are considered.

Drier (R-CA)

- o Excise tax position -- firmly opposed to increases
- o On 7/11 RVP Eagan and a group of California tobacco wholesalers met personally with the Congressman who said he is opposed to all tax increases, including excises.

Dannemeyer (R-CA)

- o Excise tax position -- firmly opposed to excises
- o On 7/11 RVP Eagan and several tobacco wholesalers met with the Congressman. He remains opposed to all tax increases.

Thomas, Bill (R-CA)

- o Excise tax position -- opposed to excise tax increases
- o On 7/11 RVP Eagan and California tobacco wholesalers met with Thomas. He is totally opposed to excise tax hikes.

Fazio (D-CA)

- o Excise tax position -- will support any leadership package, even one that includes excises.
- o On 7/11 RVP Eagan met personally with Fazio. Fazio said that there is no way he can buck whatever comes out of a summit or otherwise from leadership.

Torres (D-CA)

- o Excise tax position -- leaning against excise taxes
- o On 7/11 RVP Eagan spoke with Torres who very much opposes excise taxes. Torres shared his fear and frustration over a tax package that might include excises and how does one buck leadership on such a tax plan. Further approaches to Torres may be useful.

Moorhead (R-CA)

- o Excise tax position -- leaning against excises
- o On 7/11 RVP Eagan and several California tobacco wholesalers met with Moorhead. While Moorhead is inclined to vote against all tax increase proposals -- including excises -- he warned that he "never says never." Moorhead will likely make a final decision if/when a package is announced.

Herger (R-CA)

- o Excise tax position -- firmly opposed to excise increases
- o On 7/11 RVP Eagan and several California tobacco wholesalers met with Herger.

ADDITIONAL CALIFORNIA CONTACTS

During the past six weeks, Terry Eagan organized meetings with the following California members. Contacts were made separately and in combinations by TI lobbyists, wholesalers and special minority consultants to Region IX.

Stark (D-CA)

- o Excise tax position -- favors excise increases
- o Minority consultants were told by Stark that he would follow leaderships direction, including excise increases.

Panetta (D-CA)

- o Excise tax position -- leans in favor of increases for reasons similar to those expressed by Stark, and believes an agreement will be reached before the August recess.

Lewis (R-CA)

- o Excise tax position -- would support excises as part of tax package if supported by President and Republican leadership

Pashayan (R-CA)

- o Excise tax position -- opposed to increases

Condit (D-CA)

- o Excise tax position -- undecided, but leaning against excise increases

Lehman (D-CA)

- o Excise tax position -- undecided

Mineta (D-CA)

- o Excise tax position -- undecided, but leaning in favor of increases

Moody (D-WI)

- o Excise tax position -- will vote for excises within larger budget package

- o On 7/2, RVP Nelson and TI lobbyist Paul Sicula met personally with Moody in Milwaukee. Moody said that an increased excise tax would cause more smokers to quit, and thus he would support such a tax increase. Moody took pains to point out that it was the Republicans and the President -- not the Democrats -- who would push for increased excises.

- o Still, Moody has his doubts whether a budget package can be put together before October 1, the new FY.

Michel (R-IL)

- o Excise tax position -- unstated

- o On June 12, Illinois wholesalers Kelley and Burkland met with Michel. Burkland is a close personal friend of Michel's. Michel said that in recent private meetings with the President, it was still unclear whether the budget shortfalls would be fixed

through budget cuts or tax increases. If new taxes are the route, Michel said the White House was looking to liquor, beer and gasoline taxes. Michel, at least, felt the amount raised from a doubling of the cigarette FET did not raise a significant sum of money. However, Michel suggested that decisions may come down to December and tobacco could be part of the mix in a lameduck session.

- o Michel will address the NATD meeting in Washington in mid-July. Burkland and Kelley will discuss the issue further with him at that time.

Russo (D-IL)

- o Excise tax position -- noncommittal
- o On June 12, Kelley and Burkland met with Russo. Russo felt strongly that no decision would be made until a December lameduck session.

Gradison (R-OH)

- o Excise tax position -- noncommittal
- o On June 13, TI lobbyist John Kelley met with the member. Gradison will follow the Administration's lead. He said he didn't want to "throw additional sand in the air" that might conflict with White House positions.

Payne (D-VA)

- o Excise tax position -- strongly opposed to increases
- o In late May an NTC - organized agribusiness group met with Payne. Payne expressed his opposition to increased excises and promised to discuss the issue further with Senator Robb to shore him up.

Whitten (D-MS)

- o Excise tax position -- noncommittal
- o On June 4, TI lobbyist Ellis Bodron spoke with Whitten. Whitten said that while he opposes excise increases, he would not venture a guess on what shape a final summit package might take. Whitten also appeared reluctant to take a leadership role in the summit process.

Guarini (D-NJ)

- o Excise tax position -- noncommittal

- o At TI's request, wholesaler executive David Goldfarb met with his old friend on May 30. Guarini simply agreed to keep Goldfarb's views in mind.

Gallo (R-NJ)

- o Excise tax position -- opposed to increases

- o Goldfarb also met with Gallo on May 30.

Frenzel (R-MN)

- o Excise tax position -- opposed to increases

- o On June 22, RVP Nelson, TI and PM lobbyists, and Tom Briant of the MN Tobacco & Candy Distributors met with Frenzel. Frenzel opposes all excise tax increases. He added that they raise such a small amount of revenue that Congress may be persuaded to overlook them entirely.

Cardin (D-MD)

- o Excise tax position -- noncommittal

- o In mid-June, Bereano contacted Cardin. No commitment.

Hoyer (D-MD)

- o Excise tax position -- noncommittal

- o In mid-June, Bereano contacted Hoyer. No commitment.

McMillen (D-MD)

- o Excise tax position -- noncommittal

- o In mid-June, Bereano contacted the congressman. No commitment.

Matsui (D-CA)

- o Excise tax position -- will go with leadership

- o In late June, TI's California lobbyists met with Matsui who

said he did not think a package would be forthcoming, but that if leadership hammers out a deal, he will not buck that deal.

Gray (D-PA)

- o Excise tax position -- undecided
- o On June 9, TI lobbyist Ron White met with Gray. Gray promised to discuss the issue further with White.

Coyne (D-PA)

- o Excise tax position -- will follow leadership
- o Wholesaler exec Jerry Kupris met with Coyne during the first week in June. Coyne has no strong feelings on the excise tax issue, but asked what alternatives the industry would suggest. Kupris said the industry felt broad-based taxes were the way to go, if tax increases became necessary.

Gaydos (D-PA)

- o Excise tax position -- will follow Democratic Caucus
- o Kupris met with Gaydos during early June.

Sabo (D-MN)

- o Excise tax position -- favors excises as part of broad package
- o On June 23, RVP Nelson and TI and PM lobbyists met personally with Sabo. He said that while he did not favor excise tax hikes alone, he would support them if they were part of a broad-based tax package. Sabo is pushing for an income tax rate increase; he wants a 38% rate for those earning 300K or more annually.
- o As a matter of information, Sabo added that tobacco had been very visible in its contacts with him, as had the beer industry.

Thomas, Craig (R-WY)

- o Excise tax position -- opposed to increases
- o On 6/20, WY lobbyist Bill Thomson met personally with Thomas. Thomas reiterated his firm opposition to all tax

Thomas, Craig (R-WY)

- o Excise tax position -- opposed to increases
- o On 6/20, WY lobbyist Bill Thomson met personally with Thomas. Thomas reiterated his firm opposition to all tax increases -- including excises. Thomas is one of the 90 signers of the anti-tax letter to Bush.

cc: Bonnie DeWitt
Pat Donoho
Bob Lewis
Kurt Malmgren
George Minshew
Susan Mora
Bill Orzechowski
Tommy Payne (messenger)
Bob Reese (messenger)
Susan Stuntz
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Regional Vice Presidents/Directors