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## Backer of Antismoking Initiative Challenges Foes to Debate

Eddie Tabash, president of Californians for Clean Indoor Air, has challenged Houston Flournoy and John Henning to a public debate to defend their opposition to an antismoking proposition on the November ballot.

Flournoy, the 1974 Republican gubernatorial candidate, and Henning, a leading Democrat, recently joined forces as cochairmen of Californians for Common Sense, a group formed to fight the initiative.

"If persons of such political notoriety see fit to endorse opposition to

the initiative," Tabash said in a call to The Times, "they should see fit to debate it publicly."

Tabash, a lawyer and one of the seven drafters of the Clean Indoor Air Act, stressed that the act is not prohibitionist and called it "Intellectually and morally unassailable."

"We don't want to infringe on the right to smoke, we only want to give people the choice of whether they want to breathe other people's smoke," he said.

The proposed law would set up smoking and nonsmoking sections in almost all indoor public places, including hospitals, schools and places of employment. A \$50 fine would be levied for each violation.

Flournoy, now dean of USC's Center for Public Affairs, would not comment on the challenge.

Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Federation of Labor (AFL-CIO), was not available for comment.

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# **Tobacco Institute Newsletter**

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