

January 12, 1993

TO: Sam Chilcote

FROM: Andrew H. Tisch

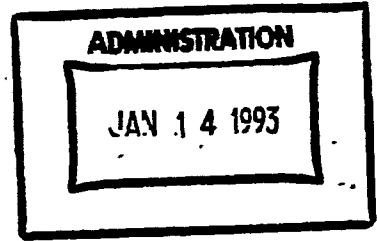
FYI. From The Daily News,  
January 9, 1993.

A.H.T.

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No word on how the  
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Sent to  
La Quinta  
1/14/93

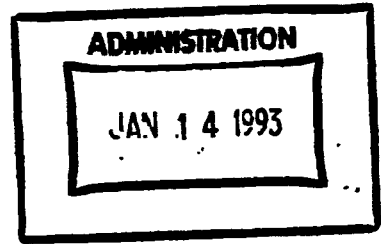
Sent to KM  
1-28-93

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Post-It routing request pad 7884

ROUTING - REQUEST

Please

- READ
  - HANDLE
  - APPROVE
- and
- FORWARD
  - RETURN
  - KEEP OR DISCARD
  - REVIEW WITH ME

To Kurt Tiplongue

Sent to km  
1-28-93

Date 1-28-93 From SDC

## Huff and puff

Word has filtered down from Albany: Gov. Cuomo is considering doubling the cigaret tax to 78 cents. No word on how the revenues would be spent; but one suggestion is for anti-smoking programs and health-care costs.

If the hike is approved, New York's would be the highest, tobacco tax in the nation. Butt-legging, already a big business here, would get much bigger. Then, too, New Yorkers will be legally able to circumvent the law by stocking up across state lines. The investment in a PATH fare or a toll or ~~gas~~ would be more than recouped by the over-the-counter savings. No state can push its taxes so far above its neighbors' without inviting massive tax evasion. Or does New York plan for tax inspectors to stake out discount stores and delis in neighboring states?

As for those who argue that sky-high taxes will persuade smokers to stop and dissuade minors from starting: (1) A long-term nicotine addict does not quit simply for monetary reasons. (2) Most kids start by grubbing butts from friends or by pooling their money to buy a pack. They certainly don't calculate what a habit might cost them over the years.

Don't count your revenues before they're hatched; gov. Much of them will go up in a puff of you-know-what.

ADMINISTRATION

JAN 14 1993