

STATEMENT OF
CHIEF CHARLES KAMP RAD (RETIRED)
ST. LOUIS (MISSOURI) FIRE DEPARTMENT
and
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

of the
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

IN SUPPORT OF S 1935
TO ESTABLISH AN
INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE ON CIGARETTE SAFETY

before the
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES SENATE

May 10, 1984

Mr. Chairman, my name is Charles Kamprad. I am the retired chief of the St. Louis (Missouri) Fire Department and the immediate past president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). Organized in 1873, the IAFC represents fire executives throughout the United States, Canada and 64 nations throughout the world.

I appreciate the opportunity to represent those fire service leaders who support S.1935 and to recognize the efforts of all those who have supported both the proposed legislation and have worked to effect the compromise with the tobacco industry. The history of tragic fires and disasters has convinced our members that a collective and cooperative effort by local, state and federal agencies, as well as the private sector, is necessary to combat the fire problem.

The direct cost of fires ignited by cigarettes approaches \$1 billion each year. In approximately 29% of all multi-fire deaths in residential properties from 1971-1981, the source of ignition heat was a cigarette. Each year, approximately 2,000 deaths are attributed to cigarettes. Sadly, the vast majority of those deaths occur in those least able to self-exit the horror of a fire, the very young and the very old are the victims.

Mr. Chairman, the fact is that most American-manufactured cigarettes and little cigars are engineered to burn automatically, even without puffing. The heat source then may become the ignition source for that potentially deadly fire. Recognizing this fact, the IAFC has been working with burn organizations, other fire service groups, federal agencies, and state and federal legislators seeking to make a fire-safe cigarette a reality. This effort includes a resolution adopted by

the IAFC at its 106th Annual Conference in 1979 and reaffirmed at the 1983 annual conference. These resolutions support and endorse efforts to require that all American produced cigarettes self-extinguish rapidly.

In testimony before the Health and the Environmental Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee last year, the IAFC rejected the statement by a representative of the Tobacco Institute, who then stated that the concept of a self-extinguishing cigarette was "naive and impractical." It would appear that the recent action by the Tobacco Institute accepting the compromise legislation also refutes that statement.

As I stated earlier, the IAFC supports the proposed legislation and will be pleased to work with the proposed inter-agency committee and the technical study group to determine the feasibility of producing fire-safe cigarettes and little cigars.

I thank you for the opportunity to express the views of the International Association of Fire Chiefs on the fire-safe cigarette legislation and would be pleased to respond to questions.