

November 16, 1990

MEMORANDUM

TO: Susan Stuntz

FR: Karen Fernicola *Karen*

RE: Strategy for CPSC appointment

As you know, part of our "3-year" plan is to encourage the appointment of Missouri State Fire Marshal John Coburn to the next vacancy of the CPSC in 1991.

One of the tactics for carrying out this strategy is to have national organized labor and consumer groups demonstrate support for the appointment at the appropriate time. Securing that support as early as possible is key.

Attached are a strategy and other background material on this subject that Pete Sparber put together. As we discussed, I will plan to attend the meeting with Savarese to address this further on the afternoon of Wednesday, Nov. 28.

In the meantime, please let me know if you have questions.

Attachment

cc: Martin Gleason

C O N F I D E N T I A L

STRATEGY

Appointment to the Consumer Product Safety Commission

- I. Secure Administration support early. (Fall 1990 for Fall 1991 appointment.)
- II. Through Senator McCarthy, encourage Senator Bond to personally seek support of President Bush.
- III. Demonstrate widespread support for Coburn appointment:
 - A. Organized Labor. Via Missouri AFL-CIO, IAFF and Washington, D.C. labor contacts.
 - B. Consumer groups. Via Missouri AG William Webster and Washington, D.C. labor groups.
 - C. Business groups. Via Missouri and national Chambers of Commerce.
 - D. Fire service. Via Congressional Fire Services Caucus, major fire groups.
- IV. "Unleash" public support immediately after Administration's announcement of the appointment. Encourage Senator Danforth -- who is ranking minority on the Senate Committee handling confirmation -- to take the lead in the Senate. Focus on Members of Congress on key committees. (List to be developed after January)

Once we are agreed on the strategies, we will develop a detailed plan of action. If you concur, however, Senator McCarthy can begin with his work now.

TALKING POINTS
Consumer Product Safety Commission

For Senator Thomas W. McCarthy

- o The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is an independent federal regulatory agency established by the 1972 Consumer Product Safety Act. It is formed by five commissioners who are appointed by the President to serve seven-year terms. However, just three of the commissioners posts are funded.

The CPSC's mission is:

- to protect the public against unreasonable risks of injury associated with consumer products.
 - to assist consumers in evaluating the comparative safety of consumer products
 - to develop uniform safety standards for consumer products and minimize conflicting state and local regulations.
 - to promote research into the causes and prevention of consumer product-related injuries, deaths and illnesses.
- o As much as one third of all issues facing the CPSC are related to fire safety. Yet there has never been a CPSC commissioner drawn from the fire fighting community.
 - o The next vacancy on the Commissioner will be created in October 1991 when the term of Commissioner Ann Graham ends. With very few exceptions, the Bush Administration has not reappointed individuals to positions. We also believe that the Administration has not yet focused on the position and that no one is yet seeking it.
 - o The statute creating the CPSC requires that appointments alternate between Republicans and Democrats. The last appointment went to a Democrat (Chairman Jacqueline Jones-Smith). Therefore, this appointment must go to a Republican.
 - o John Coburn would be an excellent choice to fill the vacancy.

HIGHLIGHTS

John H. Coburn

Professional Accomplishments

- o John Coburn has served the past five years as Director, Division of Fire Safety for the State of Missouri. In that capacity, he directs programs aimed at ensuring product safety, increasing public education, maintaining statistics, conducting safety inspections, working with diverse special interests on safety-related issues and advising lawmakers on public policy.
- o Prior to his appointment, he served 35 years as an officer, instructor and line fire fighter for the St. Louis, Missouri, fire department. Over those years he had responsibility for fire safety inspections, training, the supervision of virtually hundreds of fire fighters, as well as relations with key industries, labor unions and consumer groups.
- o Mr. Coburn is a member of the Executive Committee and a founder of the National Association of State Fire Marshals, and was recently appointed to the prestigious Board of Visitors of the National Fire Academy.

Personal Information

- o Mr. Coburn was born July 7, 1927 and is a lifelong resident of Missouri. He and his wife Wanda have two grown children. Mr. Coburn is in excellent health.

He is an active member of the Missouri Republican party.
- o He is well regarded nationally by business, labor and consumer groups.