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January 13, 1986

MEMORANDUM

TO: Samuel D. Chilcote, Jr.

FR: Bill Kloepfer

RE: "Cesstion" legislation

On Jan. 7, based on the Federal Relations Division list of pending federal legislation on reduction and cessation of tobacco use, you remarked about possible excessive emphasis on tobacco, to the exclusion of other targets in the public interest. You also suggested that some of the sponsors should be made aware of The Institute's "Responsible Living" project.

I've looked at the relevant bills. This summary should be helpful on both the points you raised.

Classified according to intended "beneficiaries", the bills cover the general public, Medicare beneficiaries, youth, federal employees, women, Indians and the military. Most of them refer to tobacco in contexts listing other perceived or known health or safety hazards. The rest make no mention of tobacco (except for taxes) or refer solely to tobacco.

I know that as a matter of policy The Institute regards tobacco use as a matter of individual judgment by mature persons, based on all the relevant information they can obtain. We do not, therefore, object to educational efforts by government or others, though we have overwhelming concerns about the objectivity of such efforts. We certainly do object to coercive activities.

Here is a brief description of the related legislation (Federal Relations and I have the lists of cosponsors on file):

General public

Earmarking: Durenberger (S.1633, no cosponsors, Finance committee) would earmark half of the 15-cent tax to a new trust fund from which states would get grants approved by HHS for "preventive health programs." The bill doesn't indicate what the programs might be or to whom they might be directed.

Bingaman (S. 1732, no cosponsors, Finance committee) would earmark four cents of a 24-cent tax to the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and another four cents to a new trust fund to pay for unspecified "health promotion and disease prevention programs" in HHS.

Smokeless tobacco: Synar (H.R.2950, 49 cosponsors, Energy & Commerce Committee); Collins (H.R.3078, four cosponsors,

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