

Let's set the record straight . . .

Do we really need laws to regulate smoking in public?

California and Florida voters rejected late in 1980, each for the second time in two years, proposals that would have segregated smokers from nonsmokers. California's Proposition 10 and the Dade County initiative also received failing grades from state labor organizations, associations and the states' major news media. Here's what some of them said of the individual proposals:

"It is a foolish attempt to use legal restriction to write social behavior that is best governed by common sense and courtesy."

*California Labor Federation
(AFL-CIO)*

"A regulatory can of worms. . . .
"We do not need more regulation by government of the lives of people in California or anywhere else."

"Surely this is a matter for private solution, that does not need the clumsy hand of government in it."

San Francisco Examiner

"In seeking to advance the rights of some, it would inevitably infringe the rights of others. That makes it bad law."

Los Angeles Times

Proposition 10's "desired ends are best achieved in businesses and stores by the exercise of courtesy on the part of employees and customers, and by the exercise of good judgment on the part of employers and owners. . . .

"It strikes us that it's better to leave the solution of such problems to the common sense of the people involved."

Long Beach Independent Press-Telegram

"In this instance we are best governed by common sense and courtesy."

Huntington Park Signal

"To add an unenforceable law like this one to the books would be ridiculous. If this passes, it will also be an infringement on people's rights."

Miami Fraternal Order of Police

"Proposition 10 would have an adverse effect on law enforcement officials in this state."

"Proposition 10 is not good for law enforcement and is not good for the public."

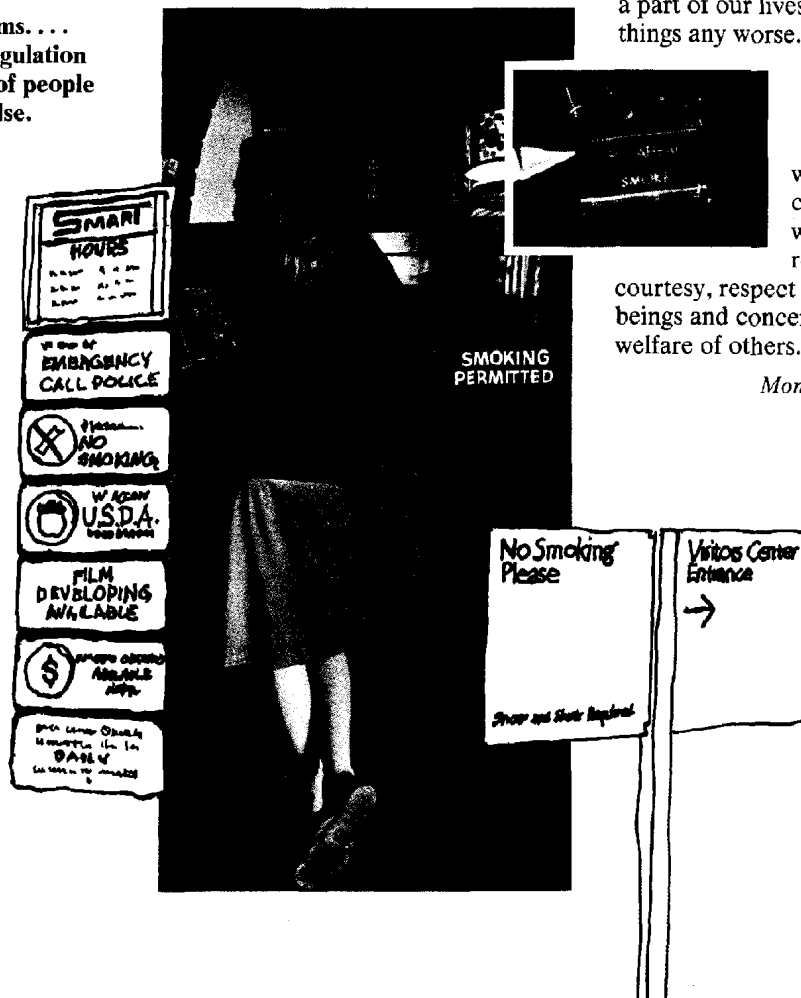
Peace Officers Research Association of California

"Big Brother, in the form of government regulation, is already too much a part of our lives. Let's not make things any worse."

*KPIX
San Francisco*

"Proposition 10 would resolve with criminal penalties . . . what should be resolved by common courtesy, respect for fellow human beings and concern for the health and welfare of others."

Monterey Peninsula Herald



"Good intentions do not always make good law and public policy. . . .

"Public awareness, common sense and courtesy are already dealing slowly but surely with the smoking problem in public places and work areas."

South Bay Breeze, Torrance (Cal.)

"A mistake, pure and simple."

KNBC Los Angeles

"It would be unworkable and unenforceable. . . .

"We don't think any law that cannot be enforced should be on the books. Respect for law and law enforcement is undermined by enacting unrealistic laws."

San Diego Tribune

"If Proposition 10 . . . passes, the state will get involved in the same contest of the will that the U.S. tried during Prohibition. . . .

". . . forget flexibility and consideration. It'll mean war."

Los Angeles Herald Examiner

"We don't have enough policemen to handle the crime we have. We don't need a new crime to contend with."

Dade Police Benevolent Association

"We don't need more government. . . ."

Homestead (Fla.) News-Leader

"We've got to quit running to government for the solution to every problem, especially problems that can be alleviated by cooperation and mutual consideration. . . ."

Daily Californian, El Cajon

"Dade voters do not need another pointless referendum on a subject that has been inflated into an unnecessarily controversial issue."

Miami Herald

"Far better, we believe, to depend on the inherent courtesy of most people to deal with the smoking issue than to pass a law that would be unnecessary, almost unenforceable, and inevitably erode individual rights."

Sacramento Union

"It could negate the voluntary cooperation smokers and nonsmokers have worked out."

*Peninsula Times Tribune,
Palo Alto*

Clearly, most Californians and Floridians believe the individual respect, tolerance and accommodation needed to resolve most everyday displeasures cannot be legislated. Mutual consideration is and must be the business of people, not of government. Whether and where their customers should be allowed to smoke must be the business of proprietors, not lawmakers.



The Tobacco Institute
1875 I Street Northwest
Washington, D. C. 20006