

Tobacco lobby fights cigarets that go out, says Vickery

JUL 12 1979

A proposal to make cigarets self-extinguishing is facing strong opposition from the tobacco-industry lobby, but could save many dollars and lives each year.

That was the comment of Gordon Vickery, former Seattle fire chief, who said a number of congressmen are supporting proposed legislation requiring cigarets to be self-extinguishing.

Vickery, former superintendent of Seattle City Light, said cigarets need substances added during manufacture to prevent them from going out. Removing the accelerants would make cigaret self-extinguishing, he said.

The former fire and utilities chief, who is recovering at Providence Medical Center after back surgery, said cigarets are a signif-

icant element in home-fire statistics.

Careless handling of smoking materials causes 93,000 fires, 2,100 deaths, 3,900 injuries and economic loss of \$312 million a year, he said.

Vickery said cigarets could be made without the accelerants — which are possible causes of cancer — and would taste and sell as

well as the present "keep-burning" types.

It seems a simpler way to go than, for instance, changing the fabrics used in furniture and bedding, which are commonly sites of fires, he said.

The action toward self-extinguishing cigarets is backed by the National Fire Administration, which Vickery now heads, the Na-

tional Fire Prevention Association and the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

The former fire chief said he hopes to leave the hospital in three or four days and to be back at his desk in Washington, D.C., in a few weeks.

TNWL 0030112