

# Executive Summary



From  
The  
Tobacco  
Institute

GTC  
Book

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## AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

- Congressman Luken has set May 25 as a tentative hearing date for his bill, H.R. 4543, which would repeal the federal cigarette health warning preemption. A copy of his bill and his "Dear Colleague" letter soliciting cosponsors is enclosed. A copy of the transcript of his May 4 hearing was forwarded earlier this week.
- At its first public meeting this week, the National Economic Commission announced that it expects to issue its recommendations for reducing the federal deficit in December, 1988, three months ahead of schedule, in order to enable the new President and Congress to consider the recommendations as part of the 1990 budget cycle. We will communicate to the Commission and individual members that there is broad opposition to excise tax increases as a deficit reduction option.
- Senator Mitchell's Subcommittee on Environmental Protection marked up and ordered reported S. 1629, his "Indoor Air Quality Act." The bill would authorize "health advisories" that could establish minimum safe exposure levels for indoor air contaminants. The Administration has opposed the bill as too costly.
- The Oversight Subcommittee of the House Committee on Veteran Affairs has scheduled a hearing for June 23 on the economic viability of VA canteens. Full Committee Chairman Sonny Montgomery directed that a hearing be held because he is concerned that the VA is moving too quickly with plans to phase out the sale of cigarettes in the canteens. A recent VA-commissioned study by Price Waterhouse concluded that if cigarettes were eliminated from canteens, the current \$3.6 million profit from the Veterans Canteen Service would turn into a \$4.5 million loss.

## IN THE STATES

- **New York City's** Health Commissioner last week issued final regulations implementing the city's public and workplace smoking ordinance. The regulations still require signs designating where smoking is permitted to carry the statement: "Warning: Smoking, and Breathing Second-hand Smoke, is Dangerous to Health." Indications remain, however, that some city council members strongly oppose the commissioner's broad interpretation of the law and may continue to challenge the regulations.
- **Connecticut** Rep. Vincent Chase called on Governor O'Neill to issue an executive order restoring smoking cars on Metro North commuter trains operating in the state. We continue to work with legislators upset by the New York Metropolitan Transit Authority's decision to ban smoking on MTA trains.

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- TI action helped ensure that an **Alabama** government workplace restriction measure died in the Senate Rules Committee at adjournment last week.

- Despite industry efforts, **Alaska** passed a new 25 percent tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes. The law also sets 19 as the minimum age for the sale or purchase of tobacco products and requires tobacco vending machines to be located so they are under adult supervision.

- The **National Association of Counties'** task force on tobacco meets this weekend in Washington, D.C. To offset appearances by ASH director John Banzhaf and other anti-tobacco leaders, TI assisted in securing slots on the agenda for several witnesses. Among them: Barry Lynn, ACLU; Simon Turner, ACVA Atlantic; ETS expert Dr. David Weeks; agricultural and economic experts; and a TI spokesperson.

### IN OTHER MATTERS

- We anticipate and are prepared for a whirlwind of media activity in the wake of Monday's expected release of the Surgeon General's 1987 report on addiction... Surgeon General Koop will appear Tuesday morning on NBC's "Today" program; "Today" initially invited TI to debate the Surgeon General but now indicates he may appear alone. We are still seeking a spot on the same telecast.

- Tobacco Industry Labor Management Committee representatives are in Jacksonville, Florida, this weekend making an indoor air quality issue presentation to the southern regional conference of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, which represents black trade unionists.

Next week, LMC representatives will make a similar presentation to the Washington State AFL-CIO educational directors meeting.

- Smoker's Rights Alliance President Dave Brenton this week launched airport information centers and discussed airline smoking issues with media in Dallas and Houston. Media coverage was positive and included the CBS television affiliates in both cities, the ABC and NBC affiliates in Dallas, four radio stations in Dallas and three in Houston, and features in the Dallas Times-Herald and Morning News and in the Houston Post. In addition, Brenton gave telephone interviews to a Fort Lauderdale, Florida, radio station, the Hartford Business Journal (Connecticut) and Raleigh News and Observer columnist Dudley Price.

Next week, Brenton will open airport information centers and visit with media in Minneapolis-St. Paul and St. Louis.