

MEMORANDUM

November 17, 1977

TO: Roger Mazingo

FROM: Larry Horist

Per your request, here is a summary of our activities as they relate to the proposed anti-smoking ordinance in Chicago and Michigan Senate Bill (S-855).

CHICAGO PROPOSAL

On May 4, Alderman Martin Oberman introduced a proposal which would regulate smoking in all public places, including areas of employment. If enacted, the ordinance would be one of the toughest in the nation, requiring no smoking sections in all public places and places of employment. No smoking sections would consist of a minimum of 50 per cent of the public area.

The ordinance is co-sponsored by Alderman Ross Lathrop and Richard Simpson. Fortunately, the sponsors represent the unpopular minority block in the 50-person City Council. The remainder are regular organization Democrats.

The proposal has been assigned to the Environmental Committee, which is chaired by Alderman Burt Natarus.

In view of the scope of the proposed ordinance, the size of the community and the strong anti-smoking sentiment of the Chicago media, it was decided to make a major effort in opposing this measure.

One of the first steps was to retain the services of Chicago attorney, Benjamin Adamowski. He comes from an old-line political family; was a member of the Illinois House of Representatives; former Cook County States Attorney and one-time mayoral candidate.

One of the first projects undertaken by Adamowski was an analysis of Chicago's "Smoker's Court." This study was designed to evaluate the impact of existing smoking laws on the courts and on the police department. In addition, the study showed that those who appear in "Smoker's Court" are generally poor

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and mostly drawn from the minority community (95%). This information will be useful in connection with our presentations at Committee hearings, and as part of our press relations effort.

After analyzing the ordinance, we looked to those business, or other groups, which would be negatively effected. Based on our findings, I set up a luncheon session for representatives of the Illinois Manufacturers Association, Illinois Retail Merchants Association, Greater Chicago Hotel and Motel Association, Chicago and Illinois Restaurant Association, Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau, Evangelical Hospital Association and the Illinois Association of Realtors.

The initial meeting was called for the purpose of acquainting the participants with the provisions of the measure, and the potential impact on their respective constituents. Without exception, they expressed an interest in the proposal.

A second luncheon was held to win their active support for our program. Former Governor William Stratton participated in this meeting, and was most helpful in his support of our position. The purpose of this meeting was to ascertain who would be willing to actively oppose the measure. Each association representative was asked whether he or she would be willing to (1) contact legislators, (2) prepare a one-page statement for presentation to the Committee, (3) testify at hearings or (4) handle editorial rebuttals.

With the exception of the Evangelical Hospital Association, all agreed to the full program. The latter was willing to lobby against the proposal, but, due to their position in the health field, wanted to minimize their public exposure.

I also met privately with police superintendent, James Rochford, (since resigned) to engage the support of the police department; and contacted the Cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce (the minority chamber) and won their support for the program outlined above.

At the same time we were laying the groundwork for the public hearings, I undertook a program of press relations designed to build lines of communication and credibility with media representatives, particularly the editorial writers and directors.

To date no hearings have been scheduled, and I cannot anticipate any until after the first of the year. I feel fairly comfortable, however, that when such hearings are scheduled, we will be in an excellent position to carry the day with an unprecedented display of support.

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MICHIGAN BILL (S-855)

The 1976 session of the Michigan Legislature resulted in a number of anti-smoking bills being enacted covering various segments of the public environment. This piece-meal approach was part of a deliberate strategy developed by the anti-smoking advocates and outlined by a member of the Michigan House at the recent American Cancer Society "Target 5" hearings in Chicago.

S-855 is that portion of the package which would cover places of employment. Basically it would require all employers to provide smoke-free environments to all workers desiring them---even to the point of requiring physical partitions.

Shortly after introduction, I met with our local lobbyists to review the provisions of the Bill and to explore potential allies.

During subsequent visits to Lansing, we met with several legislators supporting our position and developed a legislative strategy---which you and I have discussed in detail on several occasions. In addition we visited with a few of the key association representatives upon whom we hoped to rely for support.

On December 12, the Labor Committee will hold public hearings in Detroit. This is largely a public relations event requested by the sponsor, Senator Faxon. Though no vote will be taken at this time, we are most interested in making a good showing.

As of this writing, the likely position of the committee is two solidly against us, two solidly for us and the Chairman undecided.

Since this is in the Labor Committee, we have sought the support of organized labor. Because this measure would play havoc with the seniority system in many work places, we are getting fairly good response.

We also met with the legislative liaison for the Detroit Police Department. They will come out against the Bill, and will likely testify at the hearings. Also willing to testify is a black legislator who is Faxon's likely opponent in the 1978 election. (Most observers think Faxon is in trouble in his predominantly black district.)

Another good omen is that the Michigan Bar Association has passed a resolution in opposition to the Bill.

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In both these cases, Chicago and Michigan, I am cautiously optimistic that the anti-smoking measures will be rejected.

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