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INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Richmond, Virginia

To: Mr. L.F. Meyer

Date: 24 April 1984

From: Mr. R.K. Greene

Subject: Summary of the Ad Hoc Committee on Fire-Safe Cigarettes;
Report of the International Association of Fire Chiefs

The committee was formed at the request of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) meeting in Atlanta on 28-31 August 1983. The purpose was to decide whether to support resolutions on fire-safe cigarettes and the contents of any such legislation. Names and affiliations of committee members are given in Appendix I. Input was requested from Metropolitan fire chiefs across the nation, the U.S. Fire Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the tobacco industry and proponents of self-extinguishing cigarettes. Also four experts were invited to contribute their input, as listed in Appendix II. After their first meeting, summaries were submitted by the committee members, a report prepared by the chairman and reviewed and finalized by the whole committee.

The committee concluded that cigarette caused fires are the leading source of fire related deaths (although not the leading cause of fires). About two-thirds of these deaths are furniture related while one-third are bedding related, even though there are more bedding fires. The committee points out that the vast majority of these were in buildings without a fire detector. A strong drop in fires and deaths were noted, with deaths dropping 20% to 29% over the last six years while smoking related fires dropped 33% to 40%. The committee notes that this decline corresponds to an increase in smoke detector useage from 20% to 67% of households. A major concern was expressed by Dr. Hoffman over the medical effects of increased tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide levels resulting from self-extinguishing cigarettes. He suggests that self-extinguishing cigarettes might cause far more deaths and illnesses than the number of people who might be killed from fires.

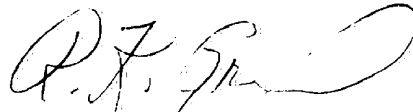
Data on current test methodology questions the applicability of the N.B.S. ranking methods to real world situations. The committee calls for additional, thorough, third party testing to define more practical tests linked to real world situations.

The report points out that little can be done to significantly change the coal temperature of a burning cigarette, and that even the "best" commercial brands (Sherman, Carlton (sic) and More) can ignite any of the easy-to-ignite materials such as cotton and that any cigarette can cause ignition depending on the orientation on the furniture.

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Finally, the report notes that no obvious changes in cigarette design will produce a self-extinguishing cigarette, nor has the industry made commercial brands more prone to ignition by using additives.

The committee recommended that an earlier IAFC resolution be changed to NOT recommend to the federal government the passage of legislation to set standards for cigarettes. Thus the Moakley and Heinz bills are not acceptable as introduced. The committee recommends the IAFC should support legislation for a comprehensive scientific federal study. This study would examine methodology and real world conditions, and be conducted under the supervision of an expert panel including representatives from those in fire science, medicine, tobacco science and consumer interests. The report also warns that fire-safe cigarettes should be tested for delivery and animal toxicology and reviewed for behavioral changes by the smoker (i.e. relighting, number of smokers, care and useage of cigarettes). Their final recommendation was to halt the passage of state legislation until the conclusion of the federal study.



R.K. Greene

c.c.

Mr. P.N. Gauvin
Ms. B.L. Goodman
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Dr. A.J. Kallianos
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APPENDIX 1. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman - William Stamm, Chief, Milwaukee Fire Department

John J. Hart, Chief, New York City Fire Department

Dr. Dietrich Hoffman, Associate Director, Naylor Dana
Institute for Disease Prevention, American Health Foundation

Dr. Richard D. Stewart, Corporate Medical Director,
S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc.

Professor Richard L.P. Custer, Associate Director, Center
for Fire Safety Studies, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

APPENDIX 2. TECHNICAL EXPERTS

Dr. John F. Krasny, Center for Fire Research, National Bureau
of Standards.

Dr. Alexander W. Spears, Executive Vice President, Operations
and Research, Lorillard.

Philip S. Schaenman, President, TriData Corporation, and Former
Associate Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration.

Arthur C. Delibert, President, Citizens Committee for Fire Safety.

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