

September 30, 1993

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bob Lewis
Bob McAdam

FROM: Susan Stuntz *SS*

The latest in the resolution parade is the attached resolution opposing cigarette taxes to finance health care reform -- from the Richmond (VA) Machinists Local.

We are scheduled to speak before the South/Central Council of the AFL-CIO on Monday in San Francisco, where this group is meeting as part of the AFL-CIO biennial convention. The South/Central Council is made up of 14 southern state AFL-CIO presidents. State Fed presidents from Virginia, North Carolina and Kentucky, as well as the BC&T, were instrumental in securing a spot on the agenda, where we will appeal for their support in opposing cigarette taxes to finance health care reform.

Attachment

cc: Cal George
Walter Woodson

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RICHMOND LODGE No. 10
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of MACHINISTS
and AEROSPACE WORKERS

MACHINISTS BLDG.. 3204 CUTSHAW AVE., RICHMOND, VA. 23230-5010

OFFICE OF THE
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

AREA CODE 804
359-4058

Resolution on

Financing of Health Care Reform

Whereas: The development of health care reform policy within the Clinton Administration includes proposals which would finance the health care reform package through a dramatic increase in the federal cigarette excise tax reportedly ranging between \$.50 and \$1.00 per pack; and

Whereas: Such a dramatic increase in the amount of the federal cigarette excise tax would result in the loss of thousands of highly skilled, high-wage jobs in the cigarette manufacturing industry directly, and other thousands of other jobs lost in related secondary employment; and

Whereas: The overwhelming majority of tobacco workers are dues-paying union members represented by affiliated unions of the AFL-CIO; and,

Whereas: Consumer excise taxes on items such as tobacco, gasoline and alcoholic beverages are regressive taxes, placing a disproportionate burden on working men and women and their families; and

Whereas: The national AFL-CIO opposes increases in the level of regressive consumer excise taxes on cigarettes and other products; and

Whereas: Consumer excise taxes represent an unstable and declining source of revenue, while at the same time health care costs and demand for services continue to escalate; therefore, be it

Resolved: That the Virginia Machinists Council opposes all efforts to increase the federal cigarette excise tax as a means of financing health care reform; and, be it further

Resolved: That the Virginia Machinists Council supports broad-based, progressive financing of health care reform; and, be it further

Resolved: That the Virginia Machinists Council will continue to work with the national AFL-CIO to promote fairly financed basic health insurance protection for all Americans.

Stephen W. Spain