

3-Dec-87

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Michael F. Brozek
FROM: Dan Nelson
RE: Ramsey County/Minnesota Plan

Yesterday afternoon, the Issues Conference was taken to Fritz and Company, a wholesaler in Newport, Minnesota. Jim Fritz, a member of the Northwest Candy and Tobacco Distributors Association, consented to having us brief his employees concerning our efforts to heighten activism among tobacco family members in Minnesota. Since the employees were still clocked in at Mr. Fritz's operation, we condensed our presentation to last one hour. At this time, it is hard to judge what effect we had on these heretofore inactive tobacco industry employees. Additionally, Mr. Fritz indicated he would send us his complete employee roster, including the home addresses of his staff. By doing follow-up mailings and calls for activism, we will be able to judge the effect of our presentation, which really hammered the "jobs" angle of Minnesota's repressive tobacco policies.

By far the most successful parts of our day were our meetings with Wes Lane, Teamsters AFL-CIO and House Government Operations Committee Chairman, Wayne Simoneau (D-Fridley).

- . At lunch with Wes Lane, David Horazdovsky and Tom Kelm were able to secure Mr. Lane's cooperation in our efforts to stop the proposed county building smoking ban in Ramsey County. At this time, final action on the ordinance is delayed. As you know, it took a tremendous effort on the part of our lobbying team at North State Advisers to secure even a delay. Now, at least there is a chance, albeit a tenuous one, that we may be able to kill the proposal when it comes up for final consideration.
- . In the evening, our dinner with Representative Wayne Simoneau enabled us to take the first step in routing restrictive smoking bills in the Minnesota legislature away from the House Health Committee. If we are able to convince the Speaker of the House that some of these bills are more appropriately heard in the Government Operations Committee, Representative Simoneau should be a "friendly" chairman. At this time, such an arrangement is far from complete, however,

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we are hopeful that this is the new direction anti-tobacco legislation, in the way of restrictions, will take in Minnesota.

All in all, our first swing through Minnesota under the new plan was successful. Walker Merryman and David Horazdovsky gave excellent presentations and did a fine job of delivering our message. I am hopeful that our meetings after the holidays will be as productive.

DCN/jmr

cc: Walker Merryman