

Message for Donohue, Chris

From: McCormick, Brendan  
Date: Tue, Feb 8, 1994 10:15 AM  
Subject: NEWSEDGE 2/8  
To: Cho, Elizabeth; Falcone, Elena; Ison, Dan; Jagroop, Elizabeth; Moore, Mike; NY-CA-NEWSEDGE; Reese

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Secondhand Smoke, 630  
Clinton Backing Smoking Ban in Virtually All Non-residential Buildings

By LARRY MARGASAK=  
Associated Press Writer=

WASHINGTON (AP) The Clinton administration is standing behind a bill that would virtually ban smoking in almost any non-residential building in the country.

Rep. Henry A. Waxman's bill to ban, or, alternatively, severely restrict smoking in publicly used buildings won key endorsements at a House hearing Monday.

The Clinton administration, represented by its top environmental and health officials, signed on to the bill, which is designed to protect nonsmokers' health and encourage smokers to quit.

Five former surgeons general appeared at the hearing to enthusiastically back the legislation, and an organization of building owners informed Waxman, D-Calif., of its support.

The opposition came from the Tobacco Institute, representing the tobacco industry, and from Rep. Thomas J. Bliley of Virginia ranking Republican on Waxman's House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on health and the environment.

"EPA firmly believes that the scientific evidence is sufficient to warrant actions to protect nonsmokers from involuntary exposure to secondhand smoke," Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner testified.

Browner estimated the lives of 5,000 to 9,000 nonsmokers could be saved each year if they could be spared inhaling secondhand smoke. But she said an additional 33,000 to 99,000 lives could be saved annually under Waxman's bill, because the smoke-free environment would encourage many smokers to quit and persuade

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nonsmokers not to start.

The bill would require owners of non-residential buildings, regularly entered by 10 or more persons, to either ban smoking inside the building or restrict it to separately ventilated rooms.

The act would be enforced through citizen lawsuits to avoid creation of a new federal bureaucracy.

Bliley charged the EPA "politically manipulated" its data and ignored a recent study that downgraded the risk of passive smoke.

Nor did the figures impress Charles O. Whitley, a former House member who appeared on behalf of the Tobacco Institute, an industry group.

He called the EPA study "scientifically flawed," contending the agency based its conclusions on studies of nonsmoker exposure in the home, not in public buildings. He said it was ironic that residences "are the only places exempted" under the bill.

"In reality, this attempt to ban smoking is an example of social engineering on a vast scale," he said. "Such massive federal intervention in the private lives and choices of one-quarter of our adult population recalls the extremism of Prohibition."

Waxman, who clashed repeatedly with Whitley during a question-and-answer period, responded that government does regulate "how people who drink affect other people."

"We don't tell them they can't drink, but when people who smoke and drink affect others, it's not social engineering, it's good public policy," Waxman contended.

Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders and other witnesses expressed concern over the effect of secondhand smoke on children.

"When we smoke around our children, then our children are smoking" she said, warning that children are vulnerable to asthma, bronchial problems and the future risk of lung cancer.

"I say now, as I said nearly a decade ago, it is my judgment that the time for delay is passed," testified C. Everett Koop, perhaps the best known former surgeon general. "Measures to protect the public health are required now."

Besides Koop, former surgeons general who testified for the bill were S. Paul Ehrlich Jr., Antonia C. Novello, Julius B. Richmond and Jesse L. Steinfeld.

An EPA report in January 1993 classified cigarette smoke as a cancer agent more dangerous than arsenic or radon. It said secondhand smoke causes 3,000 lung cancer deaths annually in adults and as many as 300,000 cases of bronchitis and pneumonia in children.

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Received by NewsEDGE/LAN: 2/8/94 2:19 AM

Canada-Cigarettes, 0215  
Canada Reportedly Ready to Slash Cigarette Taxes to Fight Smuggling

OTTAWA (AP) Faced with widespread sales of contraband cigarettes and a rebellion by shopkeepers, the Canadian government

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