



THE TOBACCO INSTITUTE


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SAMUEL D. CHILCOTE, JR.
President

November 5, 1984

MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FROM: SAMUEL D. CHILCOTE, JR. 

RE: TOBACCO INDUSTRY LABOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Three months ago, the Executive Committee authorized establishment of a Tobacco Industry Labor Management Committee, as a vehicle to work more productively with our major unions, and with organized labor generally.

I am pleased to report that since that action was taken July 24, Institute staff, working closely with Covington & Burling labor counsel and labor representatives, have moved forward on several fronts:

1. Committee Organization

Peter Sparber and Charles Merin, from the TI staff; and Wallace Mergler and Raymond Scannell, of the Bakery, Confectionery & Tobacco Workers International Union (BC&T), have been appointed to the steering committee. Mergler, a BC&T industry vice president, is chairman. Sparber is secretary/treasurer.

Invitations have been extended by John DeConcini, BC&T president, to the presidents of seven other unions to join in appointing representatives to the general committee. Mr. DeConcini's letter is attached for your information. All are eligible for membership as unions that represent employees of cigarette manufacturers.

To date, three have agreed to participate -- the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, the International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

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We also expect the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers to agree to appoint representatives shortly. We still are awaiting word from the Sheet Metal Workers union, the Plumbers and Pipefitters union, and the Teamsters. BC&T is following up on the invitations.

Members of the steering committee have met twice to review committee projects and organization. The next meeting of the steering committee has been scheduled tentatively for early December 1984.

2. Tobacco Workers Ad

The first visible notice of the committee's existence is the advertisement headlined, "We're the tobacco industry, too." The ad pictures three workers from Philip Morris' Richmond manufacturing center. Text reminds traditional friends of labor that when they attack tobacco, they're attacking organized labor.

The ad has appeared thus far in the New Republic, the Nation and In These Times. It also will appear in the Progressive and Commentary later this year, and in the January "welcome back" issue of Roll Call, the newspaper for Congressional staffers.

Press releases and tearsheets announcing the ad have been distributed to tobacco family members, labor unions and labor press, and to labor and business editors of the general media, particularly those in tobacco states. Copies of the papers distributed are attached.

Response from the labor community thus far has been good: BC&T locals in Minnesota and Connecticut have asked for copies of ads to send to their local papers. The Indiana local is reprinting the ad -- at its own expense -- in newspapers of towns considering public smoking restriction legislation.

Among general media, only the Wall Street Journal has reacted, although the Washington Post has made recent inquiries.

Posters and brochures of the ad are in production and will be available for use by BC&T locals.

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3. Erie County, Pa., Ballot Question

The committee has been active in an Erie County, Pa., ballot measure that asked voters if the county council should enact a "smoking pollution control ordinance that would have a positive effect on conditions within public places." The committee authorized printing and distribution of a sample ballot that notes that the ballot question also is asking if the council should enact a public smoking control ordinance that would have a negative effect on 2,318 Erie County jobs."

On the back of the sample ballot, the committee printed the tobacco workers ad. That sheet, together with a letter from BC&T president John DeConcini, was distributed to the 26,000 members of the Erie Central Labor Council.

4. Legislative Conference

The legislative conference for U.S. unions in the tobacco industry is scheduled for January 7-8, 1985. The Food and Allied Service Trades, a permanent observer on the committee, will host the conference. Labor and industry speakers will address legislative concerns in the areas of public smoking and excise taxes. In the near future we will be sending you a list of labor representatives BC&T plans to invite. You may wish to add to that list. We will keep you informed of all progress.

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Attachments

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C. H. JUDSON

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