

Coalition Against Regressive Taxation

430 First Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
(202) 544-6245

BREAKFAST WITH

REPRESENTATIVE DICK CHENEY (R-WY)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1986

8:00 A.M.

C.A.R.T. MEETING

AGENDA

- | | | |
|------|--|----------------------|
| I. | WELCOME | THOMAS J. DONOHUE |
| II. | STATUS REPORT | BOB LIGHTHIZER |
| III. | SENATE LETTER | KEN SIMONSEN |
| IV. | REPORT OF PUBLIC
RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE | PAT BARIO |
| V. | FUNDING STATUS OF C.A.R.T. | KEN STINGER |
| VI. | OTHER BUSINESS | |
| VII. | NEXT MEETING DATE | OCTOBER 2, IF NEEDED |

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IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO ALL
SENATE MEMBERS

September 15, 1986

The Honorable James Abdnor
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Abdnor:

The Senate will soon vote on a sweeping tax overhaul. The plan is noteworthy in part because of its strong emphasis on removing lower-income taxpayers from the tax rolls and on providing larger percentage cuts for the remaining moderate- and middle-income taxpayers.

The package is also significant for what it does not do: it contains no increases in excise taxes. This is especially heartening to the members of the Coalition Against Regressive Taxation (CART), which was formed last spring to oppose excise tax and tariff increases proposed as part of tax reform. CART's efforts attracted enormous public support that caused these proposals to be dropped before they reached the Senate floor.

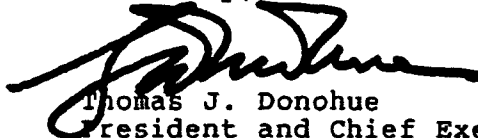
Given that outcome, we think it would be most unfortunate if the Senate were to vote as part of deficit reduction for any excise tax increases that undermine the progressive changes incorporated in the final tax reform package. Higher excise taxes are just as regressive and inappropriate in the context of deficit reduction as they are in tax reform.

CART represents a wide variety of industries in agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, wholesaling, and retailing. (A list of the signers of CART's April 15 letter to Senator Packwood is enclosed.) These firms remit a large proportion of the more than \$30 billion in excise taxes levied by the federal government. We know first hand the burden these taxes place on consumers, workers, and businesses, especially small ones.

We are equally concerned about possible increases in other major excise taxes, such as those on motor fuels, beer, or distilled spirits. Any of these changes would be unfair and regressive.

I urge you to vote against any proposals to reduce the deficit through increases in excise taxes. Please call if you would like further information.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Donohue
President and Chief Executive Officer
American Trucking Associations

President
Coalition Against Regressive Taxation

SIGNERS OF CART LETTER TO SENATOR PACKWOOD
April 15, 1986

American Association of Exporters and Importers
American Fair Trade Council
American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association
American Movers Conference
American Petroleum Institute
American Retail Federation
American Trucking Associations, Inc.
American Truck Dealers of the National Automobile Dealers Assn.
Association of American Vintners (representing 130 members)
Association of Floral Importers of Florida
Association of General Merchandise Chains, Inc.
Automobile Importers of America, Inc.
The BF Goodrich Company
BATUS
Beer Institute
Breuner's
Brown and Williamson Tobacco
Cigar Association of America
Consumers for World Trade
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
(representing 34 members)
Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc.
Independent Fuel Terminal Operators Association
International Trade Council
Interstate Carriers Conference
Ivey's
Joseph E. Seagram and Sons, Inc.
K Mart Corporation
Marshall Field and Company
Michelin Tires
The Motor Home Travelers Association
National Automobile Dealers Association
National Association of Truck Stop Operators, Inc.
National Consumers League
National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America
National Retail Merchants Association
New England Fuel Institute
Petroleum Marketers Association of America
Philip Morris Companies, Inc.
R.J. Reynolds
Recreation Vehicle Industry Association
Retail Industry Trade Action Coalition
Rubber Manufacturers Association
Ryder System, Inc.
Saks Fifth Avenue
Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America
Thimbles
Tobacco Institute
Truck Renting and Leasing Association
Truck Trailer Manufacturers Association
Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America
Wine Institute (representing 509 wineries in California)
Wine Growers of America, Inc. (representing 12 states)
Yellow Freight System, Inc.

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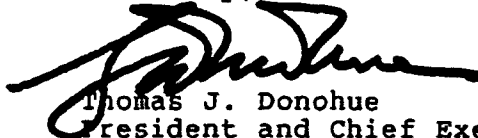
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