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TO: DISTRIBUTION
FROM: Amy Millman
SUBJECT: Interagency Committee on Smoking and Health October 15 Meeting

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OCT 21 1987

DATE: October 16, 1987

The Interagency Committee on Smoking and Health met yet another time to congratulate themselves on their successes in weakening the powerful tobacco lobby. The topic for the meeting was the implementation of the General Services Administration Smoking Regulations within Federal agencies. One of the highlights of the day was a brief ceremony held to present the Surgeon General's Medal of Honor to GSA Administrator Terence Golden for his perseverance in promulgating the smoking regulations. Mr. Golden acknowledged that the credit for the success of the regulations actually belonged to former White House Chief of Staff Don Regan who, despite considerable pressure exerted upon Congress and the Administration by the tobacco industry, told Golden to proceed despite the political consequences.

Also invited to speak at the meeting were: Barbara Hulka, Chairperson of the Department of Epidemiology in the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and more recently the chair of the NAS Committee on Passive Smoking; and John M. Pinney, founding Director of the Office on Smoking and Health (under Califano) and now the Executive Director of the Institute for the Study of Smoking Behavior and Policy at the JFK School of Government/Harvard.

Ms. Hulka's remarks (copy attached) were based primarily on the results of the 1986 NAS study on ETS. Pinney compared the ETS health threat to that of the health hazards posed by benzene and coal dust and recommended that the government learn from the mistakes made during the promulgation of those standards. Pinney also advised the group that in their zeal to eliminate smoking from all workplaces, they should take all the appropriate steps to ensure that sufficient time is allocated to phase in such a ban. Terence Golden added that GSA is beginning to look into other indoor air quality concerns, in particular the "sick building syndrome".

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Following the above presentations, a representative of each agency reported on the status of their implementation of the GSA regulations. Most reported that the regulations were working well after an initial period of confusion and that there were few if any complaints from smokers or non-smokers. The Department of Transportation representative reported that their regulations had not been implemented and the VA also reported that they still had a "few concerns" that were preventing final implementation. Surgeon General Koop expressed his disappointment with the VA for not removing cigarette vending machines.

A copy of the reports of the individual agencies are attached.

During the public comment section, the following citizens spoke to the group:

- Robert Rosner, Executive Director of the Smoking Policy Institute, applauded the efforts of the agencies but stressed that they haven't responded to the "spirit" of the smoking regulations. He stated that "the essential premise that Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) is a health hazard has not been addressed." (A copy of his statement and supporting documents is attached.)

- A Representative from Public Citizen Health Research Group called for a more "uniform" government-wide approach to implementing the GSA regs. He also announced that a petition had been filed with OSHA regarding the promulgation of regulations on ETS and thanked Jim Repace of OSHA for his assistance in the preparation of that petition. He said that although they had not received a response from OSHA, he understood that a project officer had been appointed. My sources at OSHA tell me that OSHA had not responded to the petition, nor had a project officer been assigned yet. It appears that OSHA is inclined to reject the petition but that action wouldn't take place for some time. I was also warned that we should give some consideration to who will replace Bill Brock as Secretary of Labor. Brock has been a good friend of the industry but his successor may not be quite as agreeable.

In his closing remarks, the Surgeon General said that he was pleased with the implementation of the GSA regulations and urged the agencies to continue to

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encourage their employees to stop smoking. He announced that he would be sending a letter to all the governors and mayors to urge them to adopt the GSA regulations in their states and localities.

No date has been set for the next meeting but a request was made for recommendations on future topics. One topic mentioned was "addiction".

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