

XC: R. A. Kampe  
R. L. Mozingo  
T. L. Ogburn  
M. W. Jones  
D. D. Foreman (2)

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# Executive Summary



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## AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

\* Senator Kennedy's Committee on Labor & Human Resources conducted a business session February 28, but did not address his tobacco bill, S. 1883. The next markup session is scheduled for April 4. Kennedy's staff is in the process of organizing a second day of hearings. No date has been set, but the last week of March is a distinct possibility.

\* The Luken hearings demonstrated the strength of our allies on the advertising issue. ANA witnesses Dan Jaffe and Burt Neuborne were steadfast in their opposition to Luken's bill and characterizations of industry practices, and were outraged that Luken believed the ANA and the ACLU to be compromised by tobacco contributions. We were also able to get the Washington Legal Foundation invited, as well as Tino Duran, president of the National Association of Hispanic Publications, who argued cogently against censoring advertising and patronizing minorities.

Congressmen Neal and Coble deserve the gratitude of our industry for their appearance before a very hostile interrogator.

Although Congressmen McMillan and Callahan remained firm in their opposition to Luken's bill, Congressman Slattery and, to a lesser extent new Subcommittee Member Richardson, are concerned with industry practices, especially their impression that some practices target youth.

It is clearly the Chairman's intent to attempt to insist upon appearances by company executives at subsequent hearings.

## IN THE STATES

\* A measure in Washington could reduce the cigarette excise rate if its current language is approved. As amended on February 26 in the Senate Ways & Means Committee, the bill would reduce the cigarette, alcoholic beverage and soft drink taxes raised last year to fund anti-drug programs by a prorated amount equalling the amount of federal drug enforcement aid. The bill is now in the Senate Rules Committee.

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\* Two identical Mississippi cigarette tax bills died for lack of action before deadline last week. The bills would have raised the cigarette tax by 25 cents for indigent care.

\* A bill pending in Kentucky would fund Agriculture Department marketing programs with a "development fee" on cigarettes. Starting August 1, the rate would be calculated monthly by the Department of Revenue as 0.125 percent of the amount of increase in the average price paid by wholesalers to manufacturers over the price in effect on May 31.

\* In the only smoking restriction bill to pass thus far in 1990, the Wisconsin Assembly gave final concurrence to a bill banning smoking and the use of other tobacco products by all persons on school property. The bill would allow local school boards to decide whether to allow smoking in facilities rented to other entities and not used for education purposes. The bill now goes to Governor Thompson.

\* Minnesota committees begin action next week on bills to allow tobacco vending machines only in workplaces, liquor establishments when under employee supervision and in other public places when equipped with locking or token devices. These measures would pre-empt local vending ordinances, which have been adopted in more than two dozen cities, including Minneapolis and St. Paul.

\* Three anti-tobacco measures have been introduced in the New York City Council. A vending restriction bill and two sampling ordinances will be heard April 19 in the Health Committee.

#### IN OTHER MATTERS

\* The AFL-CIO Executive Council, at its annual meeting last week, unanimously approved a statement calling upon Congress to ensure that adequate health care coverage is available to all Americans. The Federation statement calls for enactment of health care legislation "that deals with the issues of cost, access and quality" based on ten principles, including "equitable and progressive financing."

\* The American Federation of Government Employees District 14 and the Workplace Health Fund of the AFL-CIO will sponsor a conference on "Worker Health in an Office Environment" next week in Washington, D.C. NEMI's Frank Powell will conduct the session on indoor air quality. Approximately 75 federal and District of Columbia government employees are expected to attend.