

*MN Labor*

April 27, 1989

TO: Susan Stuntz

Fr: Wes Lane

RE: Quarterly Activity Report - Jan., Feb., Mar. '89

The 1989 session of the Minnesota State Legislature began on January 9, 1989, and as a result much of my activity on behalf of the committee has shifted to legislative concerns. I am making a concerted effort during this session to develop a strong labor position, particularly among AFSCME locals, on tobacco issues.

The first opportunity to test our labor support this session occurred early in January when Senator Greg Dahl pushed for early consideration of the "fire-safe" cigarette legislation. While we have not fully developed a "labor" position on this tough issue, I responded to a request from the Tobacco Institute's lobbyists to encourage phone calls and letters to legislators from union members employed in tobacco retail and wholesale operations. This effort certainly contributed to the defeat of "fire-safe" proposal. I am currently working with the Institute to refine and develop a more aggressive labor strategy regarding this issue.

The second major tobacco issue in which I was active on behalf of the Committee was a proposal to ban cigarette vending machines. This issue was a natural for union members given that several hundred jobs were at stake. I am pleased to note that the Teamster-affiliated driver locals were quick to respond to this issue. Many observers credit their involvement for the industry's strong showing on this issue.

I have devoted a lot of time this quarter to the ongoing problem of the proposed smoking ban in Ramsey County buildings. As you know, we have scheduled a survey by ACVA-Atlantic in two county-owned office buildings. While the survey has not yet been started, I have spent many hours meeting with county commissioners and county staff to set up the survey. I have also had several meetings with friendly commissioners regarding the development of a strategy to use the results of the survey, if applicable, to illustrate the lack of need for a restrictive antismoking policy on the county level.

I am pleased to note that I received the videotapes I requested last quarter, and have scheduled several showings to various Teamster groups. It is my intention to develop other wider based audiences for these tapes as time goes on.

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