

May 21, 1986

MEMORANDUM

*file  
NYC*

TO: Dr. Paul C. Bergson, Chairman  
✓ W.E. Ainsworth Jr., Esquire  
James R. Cherry, Esquire  
Mr. Donald E. Mott  
Mr. Guy L. Smith IV  
J. Kendrick Wells III, Esquire

FROM: William P. Buckley *WPB*

RE: New York City Report - May 19th Hearing

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On Monday, May 19th, in New York City, the Committee on Smoking and Health held a hearing to determine what recommendations should be made on Mayor Koch's smoking restriction proposal. Committee chairman Califano set the tone early. He made every effort to make the industry and other opponents of the proposal the issue, reducing arguments pertinent to the actual proposal to a secondary status. Califano's opening statement is Attachment A.

From the outset, Califano took delight in "exposing" the "well-heeled" nature of the tobacco industry and in the number of former Koch aides apparently working in opposition to the proposal. He also spent much committee time asking witnesses "how much were you paid to be here and say that." He dealt only briefly with the health issue. You can see from the enclosed schedule of speakers (Attachment B) that 25 slots were reserved for the first two segments of the hearing. All in all, Califano may have done us a service by his bias and obvious vindictiveness.

Those who spoke in opposition to the proposal, [noted on Attachment B with an asterisk (\*)], delivered outstanding testimony. Jim Savarese, speaking on behalf of the New York State AFL-CIO, was especially effective. Paul Screvane, Chairman of the Committee for Common Courtesy, was well received and articulated the opinions of the Committee very well.

During the evening session the microphone was open to whomever wanted to speak. About 12 people addressed the Committee during this time. One of the speakers was Councilman Stanley Michaels, author of the anti-smoking bill presently in the City Council. He told the Committee that the Mayor's proposal was too strict and needed to be weakened considerably to have any hope of getting it through the City Council.

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Deputy Mayor Alair Townsend and Health Services Administrator Victor Botnick, both members of the Health Committee, were conspicuously absent during most of the hearing due to more pressing matters.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 202-457-4889.

WPB:kc  
Attachments

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