



Subject: Weekly Brief

Date: February 23, 1982

To: RJRT Planning

From: Gene Ainsworth

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

- Congressional - The House Subcommittee on Health, chaired by Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), has scheduled hearings for March 5 and 12 on his bill, H.R. 4957. This legislative proposal would establish by statute the Office of Smoking and Health; require cigarette manufacturers to publish a rotating schedule of health warnings on cigarette packages and advertising; establish certain congressional findings on the subject of smoking and health; and establish a private right of enforcement of the warning requirement in the federal district court system. Similar legislation introduced in Senate has been tentatively scheduled for hearings March 16 and 17.
- Department of Health & Human Services - HHS on February 22, released its Annual Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health. The 1982 Report claims that smoking will cause 130,000 deaths annually. The report also placed heavy emphasis on the negative health effects to non-smokers who are exposed to cigarette smoke.
- Treasury Department - The Treasury Department on February 2, 1982 formally denied the Tobacco Institute's petition for the repeal of Treasury Decision ATF-77, relating to electronic fund transfer of excise tax payments. The Treasury Department is prevented from implementing electronic fund transfers until at least October 1, 1982, by a Congressional mandate in the fiscal 1982 Treasury appropriations bill.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

- Michigan - On February 17, the Senate Labor Committee voted 3 to 2 to postpone and table the proposed Michigan Clean Indoor Air Act. This vote seriously jeopardizes changes of passage of this legislation during 1982.
- New York - The New York Clean Indoor Air Act has once again been introduced in the Assembly and received approval by the Health Committee on February 9 and Codes Committee on February 17. In 1980 and 1981 the measure, sponsored by Rep. Grannis, passed the Assembly by 86-50 and 81-55 votes respectively, but each year failed to pass the Senate. A vote on the current Clean Indoor Air Act is scheduled for March 9.
- Wisconsin - Governor Dreyfus once again has called for an increase in the state cigarette excise tax. During 1981, Wisconsin increased the excise tax on cigarettes from 16-20¢ and placed a 20% wholesalers cost on O.T.P. Hearings will start February 23 on this new 3¢ proposal before a joint Finance Committee.
- Newton, Massachusetts - On February 18, the Newton City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting the distribution of sample cigarettes.

*Gene Ainsworth*

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GA/jld

cc: Charles Tucker  
Larry Bewley  
Kent Wold