

May 22, 1990

Martin Gleason

Comm Comm Presentation--May 23, 1990

VI. Support to Federal Relations

2 MONTHS SINCE LAST MEET

1. Hearings

- Witness Development--Allies and TI--eg. Tollison, Tino Duran, Fire services orgs. (NVFC, AFDNY)
- Testimony.
- Opening statements for friendly members.
- Questions for friendlys and hostiles.
- Testimony for Members of Congress
- Assistance in briefing Hill staff.
- Briefing books for use by industry and friends on the Hill.
- Media rel. support for TI witnesses.
- Agency support for allied witnesses.

Examples

- Luken Hearings on Advertising Issues
- Kennedy Hearings on S. 1883-(2)
- Walgren Hearing on fire safe cigarette--
May 16
- Finance Hearing--Smoking and Social Costs
(tomorrow)

In addition, we monitor and report on hearings where TI is not directly involved but has an interest in the matter being considered. eg. Kennedy Hearing on GAO report and Exports, Luken on targetting, Kennedy on drug abuse, Stark Hearing on medicare costs.

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2. Outreach Through Consulting Economists and Allies/Grass-roots Efforts

Consulting economist network

Op-eds on reports that budget negotiators are considering excise tax increases (May)

Lee's social cost rebuttal in the Journal of the Medical Association of Georgia (March)

Earmarking book (ongoing) "CHANGING BENEFICIARIES FOR PUBLIC SERVICES: USER CHARGES AND VOUCHER TAXES IN PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICE"

American Agriculture Movement

Letter-writing campaign in response to reports that excise tax increases are under consideration (May)

Media Program May/June tour in Washington, D.C., focusing on deficit reduction and budget summit negotiations

Coalition on Human Needs

Congressional district committees in Texas, Illinois, Georgia, Missouri, Michigan and Ohio (ongoing)

Response to Rostenkowski deficit reduction plan (March)

Response to House and Senate budget resolutions (April)

Grassroots letter-writing campaign on budget summit and revenue options (May)

Citizens for Tax Justice

Response to Rostenkowski's deficit reduction plan (March)

New York Times op-ed in response to budget summit and reports of regressive tax options (May)

Tax equity conference (May 22--yesterday)

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Economic Policy Institute

Financial News Network story and Video News Release based on update of 1989 report, "A Progressive Answer to the Federal Deficit" (March)

Release of study, "Are Americans on a Consumption Binge?" (April)

Release and promotion of study on Peace Dividend (May 22)

Hispanic Organizations

Letter-writing campaign, targeting Members of Congress, on reports that excise tax increases are under consideration (May)

League of Rural Voters

Endorsement of AAM tax study; press release and op-ed distributed to LRV press network (April)

Labor -- Coalition of Labor Union Women

Release of study, "Women and Children First: An Analysis of Trends in Federal Tax Policy" (May 23--today)

Labor support groups: LCLAA; APRI

Leadership letters to summit negotiators plus finance and tax committee members in response to reports of possible excise tax increases (May)

Veterans Organizations

Letter-writing campaign, targeting Members of Congress, on reports that excise tax increases are under consideration [United Veterans Association, Brotherhood of Vietnam Veterans] (May)

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Coalition Against Regressive Taxation 1990 study (April)
(EITC)

National Chamber Foundation Journal of Regulation and Social Cost (due May-June)

Price Waterhouse Economic Impact Study and Executive Summary (1990; distribution to be determined)

3. Other

Worked on Prendergast paper; "Smoking, Social Costs and Common Sense" (January-April)

Developed Earned Income Tax Credit one page background document in response to Rostenkowski (March)

Drafted a critique of the DoT's cabin air quality study for possible insertion into the Congressional Record.

Prepared and filed comments for:

- FAA's Civil Penalty Rulemaking Action
- DoT's Interim Final Rule on current smoking regulations
- FAA's Final Rule on Aircraft Smoking.

Prepared extensive backgrounder for use with Congress on industry policy regarding sales to young people.

Produced a white paper, entitled "The Case Against S. 1883," to be used by federal relations staff and lobbyists to develop opposition to Kennedy bill.

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Maintained institute liaison with Freedom to Advertise Coalition and its six constituent members, Washington Legal Foundation and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Assisted in behind-the-scenes promotion of Oregon State Fire Marshal Olin Greene, which culminated in his nomination as the next U.S. Fire Administrator. The Fire Administrator could play a significant role in future "fire-safe" cigarette activity should a federal bill be passed.

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VII. Support to State Activities

1. Tax Issue and "Social Costs"

American Agriculture Movement

Worked with AAM leadership to identify moderate farm groups to carry AAM study findings to policy makers and the public in Montana

Mailed tax study executive summary and brochure to rural legislators in New York and Florida (April)

Supported AAM media/dinner program including AAM role at Farm Aid IV concert; plan Louisiana events (early June)

California Congress of Seniors

Supported annual conference with tax policy seminars and "Tax Justice" award (March)

Florida Council of Senior Citizens

Encouraged passage of progressive health-care financing resolutions at annual convention (March)

Texas Alliance for Human Needs

Supported statewide campaign focusing on special legislative sessions and revenue considerations (ongoing)

National Vietnam Veterans Coalition

Activated coalition members in Florida in response to state excise tax increase proposals (May)

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Economist (Mike Davis) editorial board briefings

Economic witnesses

Dwight Lee provided for Wilmington, N.C.-- city council session on economic consequences of excise tax increase

Morris Coates--testified in Baton Rouge on proposed LA excise tax increase

State data card revisions

Updating Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, Illinois, and Pennsylvania

Tax fairness programs in the States

Wisconsin---?

New Jersey; NJ Citizens Action tax plan release, editorial boards and grass roots campaign underway

Florida--Anti-tax advertising campaign launched (?)

New York (?)

Iowa(?)

2. Fire Safe Cigarette Issue

Worked with fire service officials in potential problem states; New York, Minnesota, Wisconsin and California -- to monitor their activity and to keep them focused on "fire-safe" cigarette legislation at the federal level.

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Enlisted the assistance of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs Legislative Committee chairman to keep New York's "fire-safe" cigarette bill from being reported out of the Assembly Codes Committee in April.

3. Public Smoking

NEMI reps and other labor contacts contacted Montgomery County officials in opposition to the county's proposed smoking ban.

Preparing employer's guides for both New Hampshire and Rhode Island at the request of Region I regional director.

In New Hampshire, NEMI representatives filed written testimony and conducted one-on-one briefings with key legislators regarding proposed workplace smoking restriction legislation.

At the request of Region I staff, both John Fox and Gray Robertson gave presentations at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Summit meeting in April.

Attorney John Fox conducted an employment issues seminar in Portland, Oregon.

Conclusion

The foregoing is not an exhaustive list of our activities since our last meeting but hopefully it is illustrative of what we in Public Affairs have been doing in support of FRD and SAD.

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