

June 28, 1985

MEMORANDUM

TO: Howard Liebengood

FROM: Peter G. Sparber

As discussed yesterday, several groups should join us in opposing Senator Stevens' proposed bill to restrict smoking in federal buildings (see enclosure.)

At this point, these groups fall into two categories: federal employee unions and veterans groups. Unions should be of particular help since Stevens indicates in his "Dear Colleague" letter that his bill is intended to protect federal workers.

Both labor and veterans groups have expressed concern about restrictions. We are reasonably confident that they will assist us immediately to discourage Senators from cosponsoring Stevens' bill.

They include:

- o American Federation of Government Workers. AFGE has about 300,000 members in the federal workforce. We have worked with AFGE officials in Florida on workplace restrictions. AFGE president Ken Blalock is friendly.
- o Service Employees International Union/National Association of Government Employees. Approximately 90,000 federal workers here. SEIU broke with rest of labor to help us on sunset. Good personal relations with almost entire senior staff of this union.
- o American Postal Workers. Roughly 250,000+ federal workers. President Moe Biller is reasonably friendly. Good chance of help.
- o National Association of Letter Carriers. About same size as the American Postal Workers. President Vinnie Sombrotto is friendly and should be helpful.

- o Unions on Labor Management Committee: Carpenters, Sheet Metal Workers, Firemen and Oilers have members employed by the federal government.
- o Public Employees Division of the AFL-CIO. The Division's research director, Dave Wilhelm, doubles as director of Citizens For Tax Justice. Very supportive.
- o National Federation of Federal Employees. Not part of the AFL-CIO but reasonably influential. President Jim Pierce is likely to be sympathetic.
- o American Legion. Strongly opposed to smoking restrictions in V.A. facilities. Were aware and involved in earlier fight over restrictions in V.A. hospitals. President Bob Spanogle is friendly and supportive.
- o Paralyzed Veterans of America. Also strongly opposed to restrictions in V.A. facilities. Involved in earlier fight. Legislative director, Doug Vollmer, is friendly and supportive.
- o Vietnam Veterans of America. Also in opposition to restrictions. President Bobby Mueller and top staff have said they will help in this sort of battle.

We are now contacting each of these groups for help in the form of phone calls and letters to Members with whom they work. We will keep you aware of all progress and problems.

You had mentioned the suspicion that a public employees union is behind Stevens' bill. There have been some locals in favor of restrictions. But, given the AFL-CIO's neutral to negative position on smoking restrictions, I doubt the internationals had much to do with this bill. Nevertheless, we will be checking that out as well.

Since this is the first federal legislation of its kind, we believe that a strong, broad-based negative reaction might signal the anti-smokers that the time is not yet right for federal legislation of this sort. Certainly, if Stevens is at all successful we will see a parade of similar bills.

Therefore, we are giving much consideration to involving other friendly groups with an interest in this matter. Any and all suggestions would be appreciated.

Thanks for your help.

/ps
Enclosure

cc: Sam Chilcote
Bill Kloepfer
Bob Lewis
Susan Stuntz
Judy Wiedemeier

bcc: Maureen Delanty
Jim Savarese
Rick Sullivan