

**"Tobacco Union Welcomes Clinton Initiatives, But Notes Tobacco Workers Face Same Economic Impact as Farmers"**

**U.S. Newswire via Individual Inc. (09/17/97) [BCTW Union Statement-full text]**

Washington--Following is a statement by Frank Hurt, president of the Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers, on the president's tobacco proposal: The president's comments were right on target on stopping teen smoking. It's a job our nation simply must do and our union will continue to support efforts to achieve that end. But we are disappointed with the president's silence on the future of the workers in the industry, whose status matches the tobacco farmers in the danger of being punished for a situation that was not of their making.

Much of the rest of the president's comments are also welcome, but it remains a simple truth that if the manufacture of cigarettes or the export of tobacco products are restricted, the only people who will ultimately be hurt are U.S. workers and farmers. U.S. exports are less than a 5% share of the world cigarette market, yet account for between 40 and 50% of the jobs of the workers in the industry. Similarly, the U.S. produces only 9% of all tobacco leaf--about one-fifth as much as China--yet thousands more jobs are supported by that U.S. production because half of it is exported as cigarettes.

Tobacco workers and their unions are also concerned about youth smoking and the public health, but, recognizing that we live in a global economy, we will be most vigorous in contesting public policies that may be unjust to our members. Those workers and thousands more in supplier and related industries are hard-working, taxpaying Americans whose livelihoods are at stake in the adoption of a permanent national tobacco policy. The future they and their families face must also be considered as Congress contemplates the president's recommendations.

**"Senate Leader: Clinton 'Complicated' Tobacco Deal"**

**Reuters via Individual Inc. (09/18/97)**

The designated Senate leader on tobacco, Republican Sen. Don Nickles of Oklahoma, said that President Clinton "only complicated" work on a proposed tobacco settlement and was too "ambiguous. "Nickles said Clinton's speech calling for a tougher tobacco settlement lacked specifics. "He said he'd work with Congress but there's a whole lot of work to do," Nickles said. "I don't think he really helped advance the ball," said Nickles, the number two Republican leader in the Senate who has been designated as the spokesman on tobacco. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott has a relative involved in the deal and has recused himself from aspects of the policy.

Although several prominent Senate Republicans are on record as favoring legislation that would enact some kind of national settlement, Nickles said no decision had been reached yet about whether or how to proceed and "the president only complicated that." "We haven't made a decision on whether we are going to try to pass it," he said. "We have a responsibility to look at it. We don't have a responsibility to pass it," he said.

**"House Kills Tobacco Credit"**

**Reuters (09/17/97)**

Wednesday, the House of Representatives voted to repeal a \$50 billion tax credit for the tobacco industry that had been added at the last minute to July's balanced budget plan.

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