



Texas Democratic Party

June 28, 1996

STATEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN BILL WHITE

Recently, I announced that the Texas Democratic Party would no longer accept political contributions from the tobacco industry.

Even though Texas Democrats took \$50,000 from the industry last year, I made the decision to quit. One of the most serious public health threats in America today is nicotine addiction.

As many of you are aware, the Clinton Administration has targeted teen-age smoking as one of its major public health concerns.

Today, I am joined by Dr. Alan Blum, a member of the faculty at Baylor College of Medicine's Department of Family Medicine. He heads "Doctors Ought to Care," a group of dedicated physicians organized to educate the public about the dangers of smoking. Also with us is Dr. Joyce M. Adams, of the Texas Nurses Association.

As many of you know, Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole is visiting Houston today. He is going to a Republican fund-raiser and has also scheduled a visit to Texas Children's Hospital.

I encourage him to also stop at the world-renowned cancer research facilities in the Texas Medical Center, such as Baylor College of Medicine and M.D. Anderson Hospital.

Recently, the senator has made several uninformed statements about the dangers of nicotine.

On June 16, the Washington Post reported that Sen. Dole said: "Some people think it is addictive. But I at least think it's habit-forming."

During his previous Senate and current presidential campaign, Sen. Dole has accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars from the tobacco lobby. Perhaps Sen. Dole has become addicted to tobacco money that he buys the industry line.

We think it's time for him to kick the habit. The senator should return the money to the tobacco industry and make it a part of his presidential campaign to care about their marketing campaigns to hook teen-agers.