Fear rise in smuggling from ATF budget cut

By John A. Borden

WASHINGTON: A "heavy likelihood" exists that cigarette bootlegging may soon intensify, according to the director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, G. R. Dickerson, as well as officials of NATD and the National Tobacco Tax Administration, and the executive director of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, among others.

The reason is because the Reagan administration has decided to cut almost $9.5 million from the BATF's budget for 1982 — meaning that the federal program to enforce a 1978 cigarette contraband law would have to be phased out.

Many of these same officials also fear that state and local police, although they have been given training and assistance by BATF, simply won't be able to handle the problem, and that state tax revenues may drop significantly as a result.

"The phasing out of this program will be severely felt," said a member of a state police anti-smuggling unit, who asked that he and his Northeast location not be identified. "The ATF had enough resources to infiltrate people into smuggling rings down in the source states. We're not equipped to get someone underground in North Carolina, heh, we're not equipped to get someone underground in our own state."

The proposed Reagan budget cuts for fiscal 1982, which starts in October 1982, would reduce the ATF's funding from $160 million to $150,591,000, and necessitate the termination or reassignment of 60 to 75 ATF special agents. The total personnel of ATF would be shrunk from 3,743 to 3,448.

Phased-out

The phasing-out of the appropriations resulted from a recommendation made by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), as part of the Reagan administration's expenditure reduction program, and accepted by the Treasury Department.

Asked for an explanation, an

McCarty, Judge inducted into the Tobacco Hall of Fame

MIAMI BEACH: William A. McCarty, president of McCarty-Hull, Inc., Amarillo, Tex., and Curtis H. Judge, president of Lorillard, were inducted into the Tobacco Industry Hall of Fame during the opening session of the 1981 convention of the National Association of Tobacco Distributors.

McCarty has served the wholesale distribution industry for more than 18 years and has received a number of awards and honors, including the Joseph Kolodny Young Executive Achievement Award in 1971 and the Timothy Patrick Barry Jr. Memorial Award in 1973.

The Texas Association of Tobacco & Candy Distributors presented him with its Special Merit Award in 1970 and named him Southwestern Tobacco Man of the Year in 1976.

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