

THE TOBACCO LEAF

Tobacco Industry Hires Famous Cancer Scientist To Head Research Program

Dr. Clarence Cook Little Praises Cigarette Firms for Willingness to Investigate Possible Tie of Smoking to Disease — Scientific Freedom in Work Guaranteed

The Tobacco Industry Research Committee this week announced the appointment of Dr. Clarence Cook Little, internationally-noted cancer scientist and former university president, as director of its newly organized scientific research program.

Dr. Little is a former president of the American Association for Cancer Research and served as a member of the National Advisory Cancer Council. He was president of the University of Maine (1922-25), and the University of Michigan (1925-29).

Announcement of the appointment was made by O. Parker McComas, chairman of the industry committee, who revealed that Dr. Little's duties would include chairmanship of the committee's seven-

man Scientific Advisory Board. The industry committee was formed early this year to sponsor research into all aspects of tobacco use and health.

Dr. Little is now director of the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine, one of the world's greatest research centers specializing in genetics. He will continue in that position, dividing his time between the Bar Harbor laboratory and the work of the tobacco industry research program. The Jackson Laboratory breeds one million mice a year for various experimental studies at Bar Harbor and in some 400 other laboratories.

Discussing his new appointment, Dr. Little said:

"It is entirely conceivable that in the work it has undertaken the tobacco industry will have set a new standard for intelligent giving and pioneered a new type of industry support for basic research. We hope this will encourage others to adopt a similar broad and constructive attitude in their efforts."

Dr. Little described this new approach as follows:

"It is our intention to study the broad field of tobacco in relation to human health and to suggest types of investigation which seem to be important and

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Dr. Little Heads Cancer Study

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essential to increase human knowledge. "When these fields are broadly blocked out we shall look for the institution or person best fitted to direct the research and shall try to provide them with facilities and personnel which are needed to investigate the problem under consideration.

"We shall not attempt to direct the course of this research, nor shall we limit or influence the investigator in charge of it. We shall try to preserve for him the highest possible degree of freedom of ideas and of execution.

"This does not mean that we shall not support worthy projects which represent research in the stage where a specific problem can be investigated, but it does mean that we intend to implement and add to that sort of support by a creative effort to encourage constructive, original thought.

"The members of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee consider the investigation of tobacco in relation to health as a non-controversial field. The sole interest of the scientists serving on this board is to discover facts and to utilize these facts constructively and for the purpose of increasing human welfare.

"The Tobacco Industry Research Committee has given unqualified assurance to both the Scientific Advisory Board and the Scientific Director that they will have complete scientific freedom in all phases of their work."

The new director will be responsible for guiding the administration of the entire research program. The Tobacco Industry Research Committee has undertaken a long-term commitment to provide funds for the program and has made available an initial fund of \$500,000 for the remainder of this year.

Members of the Scientific Advisory Board, in addition to Dr. Little, are Dr. McKeen Cattell, Professor and Head of the Department of Pharmacology, Cornell University Medical College, New York City; Dr. Leon Jacobson, Professor of Medicine, University of Chicago, and Director of the Argonne Cancer Research Hospital, Chicago; Dr. Paul Kotin, Assistant Professor of Pathology, University of Southern California Medical School, Los Angeles.

Also, Dr. Kenneth Merrill Lynch, President, Dean of Faculty and Professor of Pathology, Medical College of South Carolina, Charleston; Dr. Stanley P. Reimann, Scientific Director of the Institute for Cancer Research and Director of the Lankenau Hospital Research Institute, Philadelphia; and Dr. William F. Rienhoff, Jr., pioneer lung surgeon and Associate Professor of Surgery, Johns-Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore.

Statement of Dr. Clarence Cook Little, Scientific Director, Tobacco Industry Research Committee, At Press Conference, University Club, New York City, June 15, 1954

At the outset I wish to thank all of you for coming to this conference, and to assure you that those of us interested in the relation of tobacco to health realize what an important part you people play in presenting to the public facts as they are discovered. We count on you to maintain balance and a sane, impersonal attitude which means a great deal to all of our citizens.

There are certain points that I should like to emphasize and about which I shall be glad to have you ask any question later in this conference.

The first is that the members of the

Scientific Advisory Board of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee consider the investigation of tobacco in relation to health as a non-controversial field in which the sole interest of the scientists serving on this board is to discover facts and to utilize these facts constructively and for the purpose of increasing human welfare.

We appreciate all the work that has been done and is being done which borders on this field. We have no axes to grind and do not intend to be critical of the efforts of others.

We do, however, feel that there is a great and continuing need for a vast amount of information which we in the field of science do not yet possess. To obtain this information and to analyze it is a long and difficult problem. It is, however, a very real challenge.

Tobacco has brought a great deal of comfort and relaxation to many millions of people. If it has an effect on the health of these people everyone wants to find out what that effect is. We must, however, be impartial, patient and painstaking in these efforts.

Obviously, all people do not react to any substance in the same way. There are great individual differences. These have to be taken into account and have to be studied and analyzed.

I hope that all of you will realize that you can perform a very real service by minimizing the controversial aspects of any basic research which is attempted, and that if you maintain an inquiring and open mind—as we hope to—a great deal can be accomplished over the years.

The second matter which I wish to emphasize is the type of effort which the Scientific Advisory Board intends to make. It is our intention to study the broad field of tobacco in relation to human health and to suggest types of investigation which seem to be important and essential to increase human knowledge.

When these fields are broadly blocked out we shall look for the institution or person best fitted to direct the research and shall try to provide them with facilities and personnel which are needed to investigate the problem under consideration.

We shall not attempt to direct the course of this research, nor shall we limit or influence the investigator in charge of it. We shall try to preserve for him the highest possible degree of freedom of ideas and of execution.

The Tobacco Industry Research Committee has given unqualified assurance to both the Scientific Advisory Board and the Scientific Director that they will have complete scientific freedom in all phases of their work.

There is a great scarcity of trained scientists and those who are best qualified to direct research are often very actively occupied in their various problems. We recognize this fact and yet, it is just that sort of person whose thinking and ideas are needed. It is evident that they will have to receive help—extra pairs of hands and eyes to supplement their own efforts. This is what we wish to accomplish.

This does not mean that we shall not support worthy projects which represent research in the stage where a specific problem can be investigated, but it does mean that we intend to implement and add to that sort of support by a creative effort to encourage constructive, original thought.

If we can accomplish this, it is entirely conceivable that in the work it has undertaken the tobacco industry will

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Senate To Get Trade Pact Bill

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Democratic spokesman on taxes and tariffs, said that he would support the one-year extension, instead, because the President has backed up on his own proposal.

While this appeared to rule out any possibility of favorable action, the Gore group still plan to press for amendments on the floor to carry out the President's original recommendations.

It was understood that the amendments will be offered to the extension measure itself rather than to the Administration's omnibus tax bill as once contemplated. The measure is

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