

# TOBACCO JOURNAL

December 23, 1957

## Research Program Shows No Tobacco-Health Link

**Dr. Little, Chairman of Scientific Advisory Board for Industry, Notes Charges Against Tobacco Use Have Not Been Substantiated**

## U. S. Tobacco Gains Cited

**Improvement in Net Seen For 1957 on Basis of 10 Months' Report by Firm**

The United States Tobacco Co. anticipates a noticeable increase in earnings per share for 1957 in comparison with last year as sales continue to advance, it was indicated by officials of the company last week in New York.

The company, which manufactures King Sano filter cigarettes and a number of large-selling brands of smoking tobacco and snuff, expects to report earnings for this year at about \$1.70

(Continued on Page 7)

Generalized charges linking tobacco use with disease have not been substantiated by extensive scientific research, Dr. Clarence Cook Little, scientific director of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee, asserted last week in making public his report on 1957 operations.

"Broad and specific accusations and claims of harmful effects from tobacco have been made," he said, "and the incorrectness or correctness of such statements must be proved, no matter how long or how difficult the effect may be."

Dr. Little's report discusses some of the questions and problems continuing under study through grants to independent scientists from the Tobacco Industry Research Committee. Dr. Little is also chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board which passes on all grants.

(Continued on Page 23)

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(Continued from Page 3)

His report covers the 12-month period ended July 1, 1957.

Among major points made by Dr. Little are:

1. No substance has been found in tobacco smoke known to cause cancer in human beings, nor is any specific mouse carcinogen found that accounts for biologic activity reported on skins of some laboratory mice.

2. Laboratory animals exposed to massive doses of cigarette smoke have not developed lung cancer as a result.

3. Tobacco smoke condensates painted on susceptible animals in the quantity and exposure rate simulating conditions of human smoking have failed to induce skin cancer.

4. Although nicotine has long been thought to lead to some constriction of peripheral blood vessels, more extensive experiments show that this is not true for all people but occurs only in certain people under certain conditions. The constrictive effect may be masked by other influences such as the temperature of the room.

5. Some experiments indicate that nicotine may result in a slight dilation rather than a constriction, as might be expected, of larger blood vessels, such as the coronary arteries.

6. Studies showed that cigarette smoking by patients with duodenal ulcers did not produce significant changes of certain gastric secretions, usually associated with ulcers.

7. Another study showed that smoking had no significant effect on the mechanics of the breathing function of normal subjects.

This is the first annual report to include abstracts of papers published by some investigators who have received grants-in-aid from the Committee.

Dr. Little also discussed many scientific difficulties involved in attempting to search for causative factors in such a complex disease as human lung cancer.

"All evidence from both laboratories and clinics indicates that the problem of causation of any type of cancer is complex and difficult to analyze," he said. "A philosophy of over-simplification and an attempt to convince the public of a final solution or of a lethal risk not demonstrated by experimental evidence are neither kind nor accurate nor wise."

Dr. Little said efforts are being made to study the individual human differences between so-called heavy smokers and non-smokers.

"Excess in various types of behavior are one of the reflections of the presence of neuro-hormonal unbalance," he said. "They are not the primary causes of such unbalance and they do not furnish the cure. They are an outward and visible sign of an inner and invisible crisis of some sort. Excessive use of tobacco, alcohol, coffee, or other agents, may therefore be primarily a symptom, not a cause."

The term "tobacco tar" is called a misnomer in the report. The phrase apparently arose because tobacco smoke, when trapped and condensed, is a dark-colored, viscous liquid. However, it is not comparable to other materials commonly known as tars, such as pine tar and coal tar, according to the report. Tobacco smoke condensates are complex mixtures and may vary according to how they are prepared, the report points out. This greatly complicates the task of analyzing and assaying smoke.

Dr. Little said that the Tobacco Industry Research Committee's \$2,200,000 research program was designed "solely to obtain new information and to advance human knowledge in every possible phase of the tobacco and health relationship."

Since the program's start in late 1954, he said, the Scientific Board to the Tobacco Industry Research Committee through June 30, 1957, had allocated \$1,715,200 in specific projects to 67 independent scientists in 52 of the nation's leading universities, hospitals and research institutions.