

September 11, 1967

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

Subject: World Conference on Smoking & Health

Attached is a copy of the speech by Senator Robert F. Kennedy delivered at the opening session of the Conference at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York, this morning. Copy of the T.I. statement is also attached.

Kennedy announced his intention to introduce three cigarette tax and advertising bills, and said that "the cigarette companies have demonstrated a total inattention to public responsibility."

The Kennedy speech followed the opening welcoming address by Former Surgeon General Luther Terry who defined the purposes of the Conference. Terry said: "We have come to the end of one era in the smoking and health field...We know for certain that lung cancer...is directly associated with cigarette smoking...that heart disease...is related to cigarette smoking...that bronchitis and emphysema can be traced to cigarette smoking... We have set two major objectives for our deliberations. First, there is the interchange of information. We are here to compare experiences, to exchange ideas, and to report new medical and scientific findings... The second, and perhaps most important, purpose of this conference is to stimulate action. We are here to recommend programs of research and education as well as programs of public and citizen activity to control the smoking problem."

Kennedy was followed by Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond who presented the report of the International Committee on Epidemiology, consisting of a review of the familiar statistical studies from various countries.

Next there was a panel entitled "Research: What We Know -- What Must Be Done" Jeremiah Stamler, of Chicago, discussed "Cigarettes and Cardio-vascular Disease," a review of the Framingham and similar studies. He concluded by saying that "further research is not the main need. What is required are studies of methods to enhance cessation of cigarette smoking. We need mass field trials of cessation studies."

George Moore, Director of Research, New York State Health Department, followed with a very short talk on "Cigarettes and Cancer." A copy of Moore's talk was not available, but he began by praising Kennedy and implying that most of the ideas had been borrowed from Moore. However, Moore said he wished to take issue with Kennedy's assertion that the cigarette industry has been inattentive. He cited an occasion in 1965 when Senator Vance Hartke had repeated back to Moore something Moore had said in "a quasi-private meeting." Therefore, Moore concluded that the cigarette industry does "monitor practically everything we say and do at these meetings."

The panel concluded with talks by two Britons: C. M. Fletcher, Secretary, Committee on Smoking and Health, Royal College of Physicians discussed "Cigarettes and Respiratory Disease." Sir Austin Bradford Hill, University of London, spoke on "Problems in Conducting Smoking Research."

The Luncheon Address by Sir George Godber, Chief Medical Officer, British Ministry of Health, was entitled "The British Experience."

Following the luncheon the group divided into various Workshop Sessions.

From the sponsors' standpoint, the first day of the conference was highly successful. The Sert Room of the Waldorf was filled to overflowing, and it was difficult for late arrivals even to get near the door. Press and TV coverage was apparently total, and the press room was so crowded that there was no place to sit. Kennedy held a poorly organized press conference following his speech. He stood in a corner with reporters' notebooks in his face and mumbled answers to questions which nobody but the questioners could hear.

Enclosures

cc: Senator Clements  
General Counsel  
Ad Hoc Committee  
Company Public Relations Representatives