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March 1981

T.I. STATEMENTS ON "ADDITIVES"

As you know, the Surgeon General raised various questions with respect to cigarette "additives" in the press conference when his report was released in January. In considering this matter there are a few basic points to be considered.

First, the cigarette manufacturers that are members of the Tobacco Institute are not aware of any substantial scientific evidence that the flavorings in American cigarettes involve any hazard to health. In this connection, it is my understanding that each manufacturer carefully evaluates information regarding each new flavoring or other additive that it contemplates adding to any of its cigarettes.

Second, since the Surgeon General first expressed his interest in cigarette additives last July, a number of the manufacturers have cooperated by submitting to him lists of cigarette flavorings or other additives, which could be used in cigarettes. In addition, their representatives met with him to determine the feasibility of providing additional information as to flavorings in current use. As pointed out to the Surgeon General, and as he appeared to

recognize, the precise mixes of flavorings used in individual brands have considerable competitive significance and are closely guarded trade secrets. Indeed, insuring the confidentiality of these trade secrets is an important and continuing concern of the cigarette manufacturers.

It bears reemphasizing that there is no substantial scientific evidence that the cigarette flavorings currently in use in the United States present any hazard to health. According to our member companies, there are several reasons for this. Many of the flavorings in today's American cigarette have been used for decades. The finest tobaccos have always been the essence of the American cigarette. Flavorings merely fine tune the taste and the introduction of new flavorings represents a continuing refinement.

It is our understanding that every cigarette manufacturer carefully evaluates information regarding any new flavoring proposed to be added to any of its cigarettes. An important aspect is the review of the published scientific literature. Various lists of substances that have been reviewed and approved for human use, such as the Food and Drug Administration Generally Recognized As Safe (GRAS) list and the Flavorings and Extracts Manufacturers Association list are also considered, as are the listings of

substances approved for use in cigarettes by the Hunter Committee in the United Kingdom and by the Health Office of the Federal Republic of West Germany. The companies also consider other available knowledge, including the opinions of company scientists with special expertise in tobacco chemistry.

As we have indicated, there seems to be no substantial scientific justification for the emphasis placed on the additives question in the Surgeon General's report. In this connection, it should be noted that two scientists who were extensively involved in the government's programs dealing with cigarettes, made the following statement in a letter published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 1979:

"We know of no scientific evidence that today's additives increase the toxicity of cigarette smoke."

The Institute and its members stand ready to discuss this matter further with the Department of Health and Human Services.