

Tobacco one

MEMORANDUM

TO: TOM FREEDMAN, MARY SMITH
FROM: SKYE PHILBRICK, KEVIN BROWN
RE: COMMENTS ABOUT TOBACCO SETTLEMENT
DATE: SEPTEMBER 25, 1997

to be a Congress

House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-GA)	Business Week, September 29, 1997	"This is not going to be a litigation lottery for the enrichment of trial lawyers."
Rep. Marge Roukema (R-N.J)	Business Week, September 29, 1997	"The tobacco part has no credibility - none whatsoever. We'd look like accomplices to the perpetration of a crime if we approved it."
Senator Hatch (R-Utah)	Star Tribune (MN), September 17, 1997 Salt Lake Tribune, September 12, 1997	Hatch criticized a provision that would block future lawsuits against tobacco companies. Hatch wants to see settlement advance soon. Hatch noted that states "stand to lose all the money and industry concessions if Congress fails to pass a law implementing the settlement."

<p>Rep. Bliley (R-VA)</p>	<p>Rocky Mountain News, September 19, 1997</p> <p>Health Line, September 18, 1997</p> <p>USA Today, September 18, 1997</p>	<p>Promises to hold hearings to "educate the American people on the proposed settlement." Also, complains that Clinton's failure to give Congress details "makes it far more difficult for us to do it all, regardless of the terms."</p> <p>Stated that Clinton's failure to accept, reject, or "spell out detailed changes in proposed legislation eliminate what little chance we had of getting an agreement enacted this year, and makes it far more difficult for us to do so at all."</p> <p>"This deal was negotiated over four months, the White House reviewed it for three months and now the president expects us to do it in 18 days."</p>
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<p>Senator Nickles (R-OK)</p>	<p>USA Today, September 18, 1997</p> <p>The Washington Post, September 18, 1997</p> <p>NBC News Transcripts, September 18, 1997</p>	<p>"Instead of advancing the ball, Clinton further complicated tobacco policy debate by calling for a vague \$1.50 increase on the price of cigarettes. Does he mean taxes, penalties or price increases?"</p> <p>"To make this happen it would take a full-court press for many months by Clinton and Congress. We could decide to do nothing; we could decide to do a piece of it."</p> <p>"It has a lot of very big, serious issues that have to be dealt with, and you can't put that together in a couple of months."</p>
<p>Senator Lautenberg (D-N.J.)</p>	<p>NBC News Transcripts, September 18, 1997</p>	<p>"The Congress does not need the tobacco industry's permission to legislate on the scourge of teen smoking."</p>
<p>Senator Faircloth (R-NC)</p>	<p>The News and Observer (NC), September 18, 1997</p>	<p>Sen. Faircloth said he was pleased with Clinton to have recognized the need to protect farmers but he said Clinton doesn't know much about it when it comes to raising tobacco. "How we approach it, I really don't know right now, and neither does he. Lots of things are being tossed around. There's going to have to be some long-term thinking on the part of farmers."</p> <p>"We have seen a constant erosion of support for tobacco. I don't know that I've ever known a situation where tobacco was such a pile-on issue."</p>

Majority Leader Lott (R-Miss.)	Health Line, September 18, 1997	Lott commented on president's proposal: "It's late, and its paltry."
Rep. Burr (R-NC)	The News and Observer (NC), September 18, 1997	"I am disappointed in the lack of leadership we witnessed today from the president."
Senator Kennedy (D-MA)	The News and Observer (NC), September 18, 1997	"Today will go down in history as the day President Bill Clinton made the Marlboro Man blink and the health of the nation's children prevailed over the profits of the tobacco industry."
Senator Harkin (D-Iowa)	The News and Observer (NC), September 18, 1997	"We don't need to rush into this. Let's wait for the smoke to clear. Let's take the time, and let's do it right. There are many ideas on how to improve this so-called settlement."
Senator Mack (R-FL)	Tampa Tribune, September 18, 1997	Sen. Mack blasted Clinton's announcement as a "lack of leadership." He said that the president delivered only simplistic political rhetoric. "With no clear direction from the White House, there is almost no hope Congress will consider the tobacco settlement this year. "Where's the hope in this proposal for people who have, or are going to have, cancer as a result of tobacco use."
Senator Robb (D-VA)	USA Today, September 18, 1997	"Arriving at a tobacco solution in Congress will be like herding cats. There is no critical mass upon which to build because there are so many component parts and particular interests."

<p>Senator Lugar (R-Indiana)</p>	<p>The Courier-Journal (KY), September 23, 1997</p>	<p>n.Lugar is moving ahead with his proposal to phase out the tobacco price support program but concedes he doesn't know how much support it will have in the Senate. "If the farmers object, it won't become law." Aide to Sen. Helms (R-NC) said Helms will oppose Lugar's plan. However, Sen. McConnell (R-KY) said farmers should consider Lugar's plan. Lugar wants to end the price support program, and compensate the farmers out of money paid by the tobacco companies under any national settlement approved by Congress. He hopes to have the bill ready before Congress' year-end adjournment, likely the first or second week of November.</p> <p>Lugar says the American public "will be increasingly uncomfortable with policies that promote tobacco production at the same time that other government policies are discouraging tobacco use. Mixed messages are not good public policy, especially when young people are involved."</p>
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<p>Senator Wyden (D-OR)</p>	<p>Congress Daily, September 18, 1997</p> <p>Congressional Press Releases, September 17, 1997</p>	<p>Wyden commended Clinton for his effective leadership.</p> <p>"We need presidential leadership to have an effective blockade against the tobacco lobbies that try to target our youngsters. I think we got that effective leadership today."</p>
<p>Senator Robb (D-VA)</p>	<p>Congress Daily, September 18, 1997</p>	<p>Sen. Robb praised the president's decision to weigh in, though Robb declined to indicate whether he would support Clinton's call for stiffer penalties in the deal.</p>
<p>Senator Conrad (D-ND)</p>	<p>Congress Daily, September 18, 1997</p>	<p>"We will have different views but in the end, I think we can accomplish a legislative product. That, after all, is the work of a legislative body."</p>
<p>Senator Harkin (D-Iowa)</p>	<p>Congressional Press Releases, September 17, 1997</p>	<p>"Let me just say at the outset that the president's announcement today, I think, puts us on a stronger starting point here in Congress. It is not the end, but it does put us at a stronger starting point. I also believe the president's action will help galvanize public opinion behind any possible legislation that truly cuts back on youth smoking."</p>

Senator Wellstone (R-MN)	Congressional Press Releases, September 17, 1997	,"And I do think also that the president said their ought to be maximum disclosure of information, I want to make sure that happens. I think we have to insist that that happens and that the companies not abuse their attorney-client privilege so that they do not disclose the information that all of us need as decision makers."

THE WHITE HOUSE

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
HOUSE LIAISON

--FAX COVER SHEET--

*to include
Congress*

DATE: 10-3-97

TO: Tom Friedman

FAX #: 456-7431

FROM: JANET MURGUIA
 AL MALDON
 DAN TATE
 LUCIA WYMAN
 PETER JACOBY
 STACEY RUBIN

ANDY BLOCKER
 JEFF FORBES
 ELISA MILLSAP
 JESSICA GIBSON
 PETER GREENBERGER

(202)456-6620 (TELEPHONE)
(202)456-2604 (FAX)

SUBJECT: _____



The Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Newt Gingrich
Sixth District
Georgia

October 3, 1997

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I appreciate the time you spent with Members of Congress this week to discuss the many issues surrounding tobacco regulation. It was a productive meeting with many areas of agreement – such as a consensus that we must strongly focus on teen health. Given that consensus, I must register my profound disappointment that the nation's drug czar, Lt. General Barry McCaffrey, did not join us as an active participant. Focusing solely on tobacco – at a time when children of increasingly younger ages are experimenting with a variety of legal and illegal substances – sends a mixed message with potentially fatal consequences.

Any anti-tobacco campaign must be placed in the broader framework of a comprehensive anti-addiction approach. We don't want to end up with young people thinking it's all right to do crack or cocaine or heroin or marijuana as long as they don't smoke tobacco. Thus, it's very important that General McCaffrey be fully involved in helping us design a complete anti-addiction program, not just a narrowly-focused initiative that might have unforeseen effects.

Similarly, allow me to suggest that Vice President Gore's upcoming regional meetings focus broadly on the impact of various addictions on our children's health and what steps are needed to protect children in the future.

I believe, as I'm sure you do, that it is important for our nation's leaders to speak clearly and with one voice when it comes to safeguarding our children's future.

Sincerely,


Newt Gingrich

*Tobacco
Congress*

MEMORANDUM

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FROM: SKYE PHILBRICK, KEVIN BROWN
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DATE: SEPTEMBER 25, 1997

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DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 1997

*pp 12-13
12/15/97*

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<p>Senator Durbin (D-ILL)</p>	<p>The Virginia Pilot, September 21, 1997</p> <p>Congress Daily, September 18, 1997</p> <p>Congressional Press Releases, September 17, 1997</p>	<p>"I can say that I would vote for an agreement. My thinking gets down to a basic fact: Today 3,000 kids in America started smoking. The sooner we do something about that, the better." Durbin thinks a deal may be better than decades of continuing litigation.</p> <p>Durbin predicted tobacco companies would not walk away from Clinton's proposal, saying there was too much money on the table and that there would continue to be too many lawsuits against them.</p> <p>"Tobacco companies have claimed they were turning over a new leaf, but they have continued their old, tired ways of doing business - cutting deals in the dark, undermining efforts to reduce teen smoking and refusing to release documents. This industry continues to have a very serious credibility problem, both in Washington and back home." Durbin said the tobacco industry must face the reality of higher prices and increased penalties. Durbin said the President has moved goal posts back where they belong."</p>
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