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Kentucky Clips

April 10, 1998

Clinton: 'We can do it'

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President assures farmers of concern about their future

By Gail Gibson

Herald-Leader Washington Bureau

CARROLLTON - President Clinton yesterday brought the nation's turbulent tobacco talks to the heart of burley country, where he promised Kentucky growers protection amid national efforts to crackdown on youth smoking.

Talking to growers, farm leaders and high school students in a half-day visit to Northern Kentucky, Clinton pressed his case for a national tobacco policy, saying it would offer farmers and tobacco-dependent rural communities a more certain future.

"If you want to do this, and do it right, we can do it," Clinton told a packed audience in the Carroll County High School gym. "We don't have to wreck the fabric of life in your community. We don't have to rob honest people of their way of life."

In particular, the president talked about the importance of the crop's federal price-support program and pointed to a plan by U.S. Sen. Wendell Ford as a good way to protect growers' livelihood.

Clinton's visit came at a critical juncture in the nearly year-old tobacco settlement talks.

On Wednesday, the nation's leading cigarette manufacturers abandoned congressional efforts to draft a comprehensive tobacco settlement. That move came after months of work to reach an agreement that would give the industry some protections from smokers' health-related lawsuits in return for billion-dollar payments to states and agreements to curb advertising.

Industry leaders said Congress was demanding too much from the companies. They vowed to fight any efforts to raise cigarette taxes or restrict tobacco advertising, and they said that Congress had lost a unique opportunity by playing politics with the issue.

But Clinton, who had scheduled his trip to Kentucky before the companies' pullout, said yesterday that it still is in the best interest of the country for lawmakers to enact stricter controls over tobacco. He called on the

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companies to keep working with Congress.

"Even in tobacco country, we can't deny what the scientists have told us, or what has been done to market tobacco to children in ways that compromise their future," Clinton said. "To me, no company's bottom line is important compared to America's bottom line."

In Kentucky, Clinton was greeted by cheering, camera-toting students as well as protesters from a cigarette company and many growers who are wary of the most anti-tobacco president in history.

Signs on Carrollton businesses reflected the mixed views of residents receiving a president in this town with a long tobacco tradition. "Protect our Farms," was the message at one gas station. Across the street, another advertised, "Save Here on Cigarettes."

Some 400 workers from Louisville-based Brown & Williamson Tobacco Co. stood along the president's motorcade route wearing T-shirts that declared, "It's my job," and waving signs with slogans such as "Stop taxing tobacco," and "I'm a tobacco employee."

"We're trying to represent the 45 million adults who enjoy cigarettes and should be allowed to," said Nicholas Brookes, B&W's chief executive officer.

"The employees are not here because I told them to be here," Brookes added. "They are here because they want to be here."

At the Kentuckiana Tobacco Warehouse in Carrollton, Clinton met with a small group that included tobacco growers, farm leaders, a health advocate, a student and a Baptist minister. Later, he addressed students and local and state officials at the high school.

One grower, Meade County farmer Mattie Mack, spoke as if at a church revival. She told Clinton how tobacco had sent three of her four children to college and helped her and her husband to raise 38 foster children - none of whom smoked. In tobacco, there is good with the bad, she told the president.

"We're against children smoking, Mr. President, but we shouldn't be penalized on account of children smoking," said Mack, 61, who grows 7,000 pounds of tobacco on her 100-acre farm.

Clinton acknowledged that if his efforts to reduce youth smoking are successful, demand for Kentucky's leading cash crop will drop.

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But he said enacting broad tobacco legislation would offer farmers what they don't have now - some certainty about the future of their crop.

And he promised that any tobacco legislation will include economic help for growers, such as Ford's Long-Term Economic Assistance for Farmers plan, also known as the LEAF Act. Ford's proposal would compensate farmers for lost income, offer price guarantees for those who want to keep growing and provide other benefits to rural communities long dependent on tobacco.

Ford, who traveled with Clinton in Kentucky along with Gov. Paul Patton and other state leaders, welcomed the president's support.

"I think he understands," said Ford, an Owensboro Democrat and one of the growers' fiercest allies in Washington.

The president showed no softening in his approach to the cigarette makers, even as some of the farm leaders he met with cautioned against being too harsh on an industry that provides thousands of jobs across the South.

"It's very easy to talk about punishing the tobacco companies for their evil doings, but we want to show you this gets back to the people," Bill Sprague, president of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, told Clinton.

Clinton defended efforts to toughen last year's proposed \$368.5 billion settlement. The most recent proposal would put the price tag at \$516 billion.

And he repeated his call for the manufacturers to keep working with lawmakers.

"I hope they will reconsider ... But we're going to do this this year if I can control the outcome," Clinton said.

But an industry spokesman yesterday said the companies see little chance for any productive settlement talks now.

"The industry's feelings today are as they were yesterday," said Steve Duchesne, a spokesman for the companies involved in last year's settlement. "And that is that the current political environment in Washington has become so poisoned that we don't see that any rational negotiations can take place."

President's message not a hit with all students

By Bill Estep HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITER

CARROLLTON -- On the day President Clinton came to talk about reducing teen smoking, some young people showed why peer pressure and the urge to rebel will make that a challenge.

Many students at Carroll County High School wore bright yellow signs around their necks that read "I Choose Not to Smoke." But some folded the cards so that the message became "I Choose to Smoke."

"If we choose to harm our body that is our choice," said Kendra Purvis, 16, who with her friend, Crystal Cole, stuck hand-lettered signs to their shirts with the same message.

Clinton said little directly to teens yesterday, though he urged the 2,000 young people packed in the stuffy gym to take responsibility for their future and not smoke.

"I don't believe that the Wildcats could have left all of their opponents gasping for breath, could have come from behind repeatedly to win the tournament, if their lungs had been incapacitated," Clinton said, drawing one of the biggest cheers of the day.

Smokers may not be a majority at Carroll County High School, but it's clear many teens at the school smoke -- sometimes sneaking a few puffs in the bathroom.

William Cord, the high school's principal from 1980 until last year, estimated that 40 percent of its students smoke.

"They're already hooked when they get to the high school," he said.

Most students said it was exciting to have Clinton at their school.

"It's like the biggest thing that's ever happened to Carrollton," said Tabitha Oak, 15.

But in a county where most kids have seen tobacco grown and smoked all their lives, reaction to his message was mixed.

Chuck Oak, 17, who was wearing boots and tan overalls, said the speech didn't make a dent for him.

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"There ain't no way I'm going to give it up," said Oak, a smoker whose family grows tobacco.

The president's message did hit home with some young people.

"I think he was right," said Stacy Mazza, who is 12 and in the 6th grade.

Stacy said she doubted she'd ever smoke because her mother, who does smoke, told her not to, and because smoking can cause cancer and "turn your teeth yellow."

Laura Hahn, 15, who went to hear the president with three other Tates Creek High School students and her mother, Ellen Hahn, said Clinton did a great job and got the attention of a lot of students.

"I loved it," said Laura, who is active in an anti-smoking group called Students Teach Awareness Regarding Tobacco, or START. "We think it's great what he's doing with tobacco."

LeeAnn Mitchell, 15, said Clinton probably got through to some young people, but not many. She said after the speech that she would probably try to quit smoking Marlboros.

Dustie McIntosh, 16, a sophomore who is in the Future Farmers of America, said she agreed with Clinton's push against teen smoking.

But she doesn't agree with proposals for much higher cigarette taxes, because that will cut demand for tobacco and hurt farmers.

"They've got to remember, farmers here in Carroll County depend on tobacco," said McIntosh, who wants to farm after college.

Ryan Figgins, a junior who came from Pendleton County to hear Clinton, said he was reassured by the president's pledge to protect farmers as part of any national tobacco policy.

"I believe it gave (farmers) a lot of confidence," said Ryan, who grows two acres of tobacco. Marissa Vaught, 17, who got to speak directly to Clinton in a small gathering before the speech, said the experience was amazing.

Marissa said proposals to limit cigarette advertising and raise prices will reduce teen smoking, at least for a while. But for the attack on teen smoking to succeed over the long run, it will have to be constantly reinforced with "positive influences" not to smoke, such as college scholarships, she said.

"You can't just come in here and talk about smoking" and solve the problem, Vaught said.

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Good riddance:

Big Tobacco not needed to fight addiction, aid farmers

Herald-Leader Editorial Board

It's probably just as well that cigarette manufacturers have pulled out of negotiations for a comprehensive tobacco settlement. Any deal that was good for the cigarette companies would never have passed the American public's smell test.

Congress can and should protect kids by increasing the tax on cigarettes by \$1.50 a pack or more. Experience and research suggest the most effective deterrent to acquiring the deadly addiction is raising the price of cigarettes. And lawmakers have never needed the cigarette companies' permission to do that.

Congress should put part of this tax increase into a fund to protect tobacco growers and their communities as demand for the crop declines. And a substantial sum should go into anti-smoking educational campaigns and into helping people quit.

President Clinton, speaking yesterday at a tobacco warehouse and high school in Carrollton, said "there is still a good chance that we can get comprehensive legislation this year that will not leave the farmers behind."

The companies' departure from the deal does make it harder to curb cigarette advertising. But that's OK, too. An advertising ban always raised troubling constitutional questions; after all, free speech protections extend even to speech as noxious as cigarette advertising. In practical terms, an advertising ban could have helped the leading cigarette brands since competitors would be less able to gain market share without the benefit of billboards and magazine displays.

In Washington, lawmakers from both parties seem determined to enact a strong package to protect kids from smoking. Republicans and Democrats alike realized that cigarette manufacturers and lawyers were the only winners in the original 25-year, \$368.5 billion settlement, with its broad legal protections for the cigarette companies.

That's why Republican Sen. John McCain's much tougher measure (price tag: \$506 billion over 25 years) cleared a Senate committee by a 19-1 vote last week, prompting the companies to exit the negotiations.

Now that the tobacco industry's hefty campaign contributions are no longer controlling Congress, RJR Nabisco's chief executive Steven Goldstone says

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his company will try to foment a sort of smokers' rights crusade. He points out that the majority of smokers are low-income people who would bear the brunt of the tax increase. (Likewise, the same people would see improvements in their health or longevity should higher prices prompt them to quit, though Goldstone didn't mention that.)

Goldstone also stressed the economic suffering that a big cigarette tax increase would cause tobacco farmers and their communities. Pardon our cynicism, but such concern is rather suspect coming from RJR, a company that lately has shown far more enthusiasm for buying tobacco in South America than Kentucky.

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Heard

Compiled by the Herald-Leader

"They say they're not trying to punish the tobacco companies; they're not trying to punish the growers -- but they are."

-- Clifford Bell, retired Pendleton County tobacco farmer, who went to Carroll County yesterday but did not see the president

"I think he was very well prepared. He understood the issue very well, and I was impressed by his knowledge. I just hope he's sincere in his statements ... If he sticks to the convictions that he indicated he had today, I think Kentucky tobacco farmers would be in good shape in whatever legislation comes through."

-- Rod Kuegel, Daviess County tobacco farmer, Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association president



LOCAL NEWS

Wire @ enquirer.com

Clinton promises growers help

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NEWS

Kentuckians express worry, uncertainty

Friday, April 10, 1998

BY PATRICK CROWLEY
The Cincinnati Enquirer

CARROLLTON, Ky. — With uncertainty surrounding a federal tobacco settlement, President Clinton came to this skeptical burley belt town Thursday to reassure the community that its livelihood won't be snuffed out.

"Tobacco farmers deserve protection and they will not be singled out," Mr. Clinton said in a chilly tobacco warehouse during an hourlong roundtable discussion with tobacco farmers, health advocates and residents.



President Clinton reaches into the crowd after speaking at Carroll County High School.

(Michael E. Keating photo)

|ZOOM|

One day after the nation's largest tobacco companies backed away from a multibillion-dollar legal settlement pending in Congress, the president said he was not trying to destroy the industry.

"We have no interest whatever in putting the tobacco companies out of business. I just want to get them out of the business of selling tobacco to children."

This town of just under 4,000 people, along the Ohio River between Cincinnati and Louisville, welcomed the president. But growers, business owners and people who depend on tobacco for their living are clearly apprehensive about putting their fate in Washington's hands.

"The biggest thing our farmers are concerned about is the uncertainty of the whole tobacco issue," Bill Sprague, a tobacco farmer and president of the Kentucky Farm Bureau, told Mr. Clinton. The crop represents an estimated \$1 billion a year in Kentucky.

"It's very difficult for a farmer to make a long-term plan on his farm not knowing next year what will happen to our tobacco program," Mr. Sprague said.

There has been concern in tobacco states that Congress may eliminate the program in which the government sets prices and guarantees the purchase of tobacco not bought by tobacco companies.

"Mr. President, what we need is your leadership," Mr. Sprague said. "We need somebody of your stature that can take this thing by the throat and can

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push it through. We desperately need some kind of direction from the White House."

Mr. Clinton said he thinks a tobacco settlement can be reached this year, even though the tobacco companies have balked and congressional leaders like Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., have said that achieving a settlement this year will be difficult.

"What we need is to get this thing done in Congress this year," Mr. Clinton said, "and do it in a way that achieves our goal of driving down teen smoking as much as we can as fast as we can . . . and still protect the farmer."

During the roundtable, and later in a speech at Carroll County High School, Mr. Clinton said any tobacco settlement should include provisions of legislation filed by U.S. Sen. Wendell Ford and Rep. Scotty Baesler, both Kentucky Democrats.

The bill calls for at least \$28.5 billion to be spent on:

- ☐ Buying out farmers who cease growing tobacco.
- ☐ Attracting business and industry to towns like Carrollton that are economically dependent on tobacco.
- ☐ Grants and loans for farmers and their families to pay for higher education.
- ☐ Providing assistance to workers involved in the manufacture, processing or warehousing of tobacco.

Mr. Ford said the bill would provide \$18 million to Carrollton for economic development.

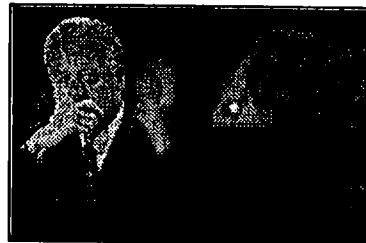
"If we do something in Washington to reduce what tobacco means to these small towns, we need to do something to compensate for that," he said.

"We really have to have a way to get economic development into these communities," said Rob Kuegel, president of the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative.

"Wendell Ford's bill basically gives the family farm a chance to survive," Mr. Clinton said.

Carrollton is the county seat of Carroll County, where farmers grew nearly 4 million pounds of tobacco last year. In the county's seven tobacco warehouses -- including the Kentuckiana Tobacco Warehouse, where the roundtable was held -- more than 30 million pounds of tobacco grown in Kentucky and southern Indiana will be sold this year.

Though he was greeted numerous times with thunderous applause during his speech at the high school, not everybody in tobacco country was



Mattie Mack, right, spoke with President Clinton during a roundtable discussion.
(Glenn Hartong photo)
[ZOOM]

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happy to see Mr. Clinton.

Standing along the route of Mr. Clinton's motorcade just outside Carrollton were about 400 workers who had been given the day off from the Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. factory in Louisville. Brandishing signs that read, "Tobacco pays my bills" and "It's my job," they protested loudly in a cold, windy drizzle as traffic drove by.

During the roundtable, Mattie Mack of Brandenburg, Ky., a member of the Kentucky Minority Farmers, gave Mr. Clinton an animated, sermon-like lecture that the president listened to intently, his hand on his chin, his eyes fixed on Mrs. Mack.

"I own a 100-acre farm and I've been married 40 years, and I have four children that I educated, three at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, on tobacco," she said.

"And I've raised 38 foster children on this 100-acre farm in the period of '64 to '92. None of those children smoked. My four children did not smoke. I don't smoke; my husband don't smoke. And we are against children smoking, Mr. President, but we shouldn't be penalized on account of children smoking.

"The parents are going to have to teach the children the right way about this tobacco. I look at tobacco as being good to us," she said.

"Tobacco farmers have not done anything wrong," the president responded. "You're growing a legal crop, you're not doing the marketing of the tobacco to children."

Mr. Clinton sought advice from 17-year-old Marissa Vaught, a Carroll County High School junior chosen by school officials to participate.

"What is the most effective thing we can do to discourage your peers from not smoking?" the president asked.

"You might consider giving college scholarship money to (high school) students who are non-smokers," she said.

"We'll have to look into that," Mr. Clinton said.

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Democrat Douglas withdraws from race

Firm crosses Lebanon off list

First-graders give teddy bears to police for children in crisis

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COLUMNS

The easiest way...

Clinton does Ky. balancing act

NEWS

Friday, April 10, 1998

BY HOWARD WILKINSON
The Cincinnati Enquirer

CARROLLTON, Ky. -- When it comes to his self-proclaimed ability to "feel your pain," President Clinton can cover a lot of territory.

Thursday in Carroll County, deep in the heart of Kentucky's burley tobacco belt, and deep in the midst of the unraveling of the multibillion-dollar tobacco litigation settlement, Mr. Clinton walked a tightrope between two seemingly intractable interests. There were the tobacco farmers, who feel threatened by what they see as a federal assault on the tobacco industry, and the millions of Americans who fear their children will be sucked by slick marketing into the habit of smoking.



President Clinton addressed a full house at Carroll County High School.
(Michael E. Keating photo)

|ZOOM|

On this day, when one might think the president of the United States would want to be anywhere else than in the middle of a rural economy that runs on tobacco, Mr. Clinton managed to have something for everybody.

For the farmers -- some of whom met with him for about an hour Thursday in the cavernous Kentuckiana Tobacco Warehouse on the edge of town -- he had the promise that he would not seek a tobacco litigation settlement that would harm their ability to make a living.

"There are 60,000 tobacco farmers in the state of Kentucky," Mr. Clinton said. "They have obeyed the rules. They have taught their children to play by the rules.

"I will not sign any legislation that does not have adequate protection for tobacco farmers," the president told a crowd of about 2,200 students in the Carroll County High School gymnasium after his meeting with the tobacco farmers.

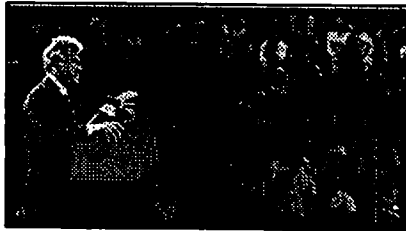
On Wednesday, tobacco company executives said they were pulling their support of a \$368.5 billion litigation settlement agreed to last year because, they said, the U.S. Senate -- with the backing of the Clinton administration -- had hiked the price tag up to \$516 billion.

As President Clinton's motorcade from the Cincinnati - Northern Kentucky International Airport pulled into Carrollton, the president and his entourage were greeted by about 300 protesters bused in by the tobacco company Brown & Williamson, located about 50 miles away in Louisville.

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Carrollton residents, too, got into the act of trying to impress upon the president their support for the tobacco industry. Businesses lining the motorcade route into town sported banners reading "Welcome President Clinton! Save our Tobacco!"

"I just want to make sure these people in Washington don't bury an industry that has been going on for generations in this county," said Bill Keith, a local tobacco farmer.



(Michael E. Keating photo)
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But for all the protesters and sign-waving, it was clear that Mr. Clinton was in Carrollton not just to reassure a relatively small group of Kentucky farmers that their livelihoods would not be lost.

The president was there to reach a larger audience, one that is angry at the tobacco companies and is alarmed at national statistics showing that 43 percent of high

school youth have taken up smoking. In his 20-minute speech in the high school gym, Mr. Clinton advised the high school students -- who go to a school where the urinals in the boys rest room are clogged with cigarette butts -- to "take responsibility for your life" and not smoke.

In a message aimed at parents, Mr. Clinton said the tobacco industry "must change the way it does business" and stop advertising aimed at children and teens.

"Nobody has any animosity towards the farmers; they aren't out there marketing their product to children," Mr. Clinton said. "But for years and years, the tobacco companies wouldn't admit they were marketing to children."

Mr. Clinton made it clear that despite the position the tobacco companies took Wednesday, he plans to continue the fight.

"Even in tobacco country, we can't deny what the scientists tell us," Mr. Clinton said. "No company's bottom line is more important than America's bottom line."

Howard Wilkinson covers politics for the Enquirer.

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LOCAL NEWS



Officials pitch to the president

NEWS

Clinton hears local ideas

Friday, April 10, 1998

BY PATRICK CROWLEY and GREGORY A. HALL
The Cincinnati Enquirer

CARROLLTON, Ky. — Tom McKee got President Clinton's hand as well as his ear during the president's visit to Kentucky on Thursday. As Mr. Clinton shook hands with the crowd following a speech he gave at Carroll County High School, Mr. McKee, a state lawmaker and tobacco farmer from Cynthiana, lobbied the president to make sure farmers are taken care of in any tobacco settlement or legislation. "I asked him to support (Sen.) Wendell Ford's bill on tobacco," said Mr. McKee.

Mr. McKee was referring to legislation filed by the Kentucky senator that provides money for farm buyouts, college scholarships and economic development to communities like Carrollton and Cynthiana that are dependent on tobacco.

"He said straight up to me, 'I think Wendell's got the right idea.' That was his quote," said an excited Mr. McKee, who represents a portion of Campbell County and all of Pendleton County.

Rep. Royce Adams of Dry Ridge, also a tobacco farmer, chatted briefly with the president, asking him to continue the government program that sets the price of tobacco and guarantees the crop will be purchased each year.

"He said he's all for it," said Mr. Adams.

Rep. Jim Callahan of Wilder also got to meet the president. "It's something you never forget," Mr. Callahan said.

Several state and local officials interacted with the president during his trip Thursday to Kentucky.

First to greet the president off Air Force One was Gov. Paul Patton and Mr. Ford. Both rode in the limousine to Carrollton.

"We talked to the president about how very important tobacco is to the economy of Kentucky, not just to the farmers but to the warehouse workers, the people who process and ship tobacco, and the business people who sell goods in tobacco communities," Mr. Patton said. Also greeting the president at the airport were: Cincinnati Mayor Roxanne Qualls; U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman; Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts Ed Hatchett; Kentucky House Speaker Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green; Lt. Gov. Steve



President Clinton arrived Thursday at the Northern Kentucky-Greater Cincinnati International Airport.
(Michael E. Keating photo)
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Henry; Kentucky Senate President Larry Saunders, D-Louisville; Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith; Kentucky Senate President Pro-tem Walter Blevins, D-West Liberty; Carroll County Judge-executive Gene McMurry; and Carrollton Mayor William J. Welty Sr.

U.S. Rep. Scotty Baesler, D-Lexington, was on the plane with the president.

Mr. Clinton commented on the Kenneth Starr investigation, Ms. Qualls said, but she declined to reveal exactly what he said. "Obviously things seem to be moving in the right direction for him," she said.

She said they also spoke for a moment about her congressional campaign against Cincinnati Republican Steve Chabot.

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First-graders give teddy bears to police for children in crisis
For sale: Florence City Hall
Lawyers spar in Baker dispute
Light rail funding pushed
Locals on \$10,000 donor list
Loveland YMCA culminates years of efforts
Mason, Deerfield fire talks derailed
Mediators head back to Ulster
TRISTATE DIGEST
Two charged in 7-month shooting probe

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LOCAL NEWS



Big visit rivets students

NEWS

Friday, April 10, 1998

BY PATRICK CROWLEY
The Cincinnati Enquirer

CARROLLTON, Ky. — Unlike a lot of teens, Jonathan Oaks and Ryan Figgins have no doubt what they want to do with their lives.

They want to farm.

"It's all I know and all I want to do," said Jonathan, 17, of Demossville, Ky., in Pendleton County.

So Jonathan, Ryan and other members of the Future Farmers of America at Pendleton County High School were among 2,000 people jammed inside Carroll County High School to listen to President Clinton talk Thursday.

"It's amazing seeing the president," Ryan said, after Mr. Clinton passed by to shake hands with several students.

"I'll never forget it. It's probably a once-in-a-lifetime thing."

But his awe was tempered by concern that Mr. Clinton's policies may damage the economy of his hometown of Falmouth, which is still recovering from last year's devastating flood.

"A lot of people in and around Falmouth depend on tobacco," Ryan said. "It makes them money they need to get by."

Jonathan was more optimistic.

"The program he is talking about sounds pretty good," said Jonathan, whose family grows about 10,000 pounds of tobacco annually. "It sounds like he wants to help the farmers. I hope he can do it."

Mr. Clinton received a warm welcome at the high school, where students from Carroll, Trimble, Gallatin and Pendleton counties seemed to hang on every word and were quick to applaud and shriek at the president's comments.

"This was awesome," said Cassandra Sanders, 16. "It was the most exciting thing we have ever seen in this town."

Honor student Jacqueline Jones, 18, found out Wednesday night she would



Carroll County High School senior Jacqueline Jones, left, introduced President Clinton to the audience Thursday.
(Michael E. Keating photo)
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CLASSIFIEDS

FREETIME!

OPINION

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be introducing the president.

Although she claimed to be nervous, her introduction was nearly flawless and delivered without notes. She credited her smooth address to the president.

"I was so nervous, but (Mr. Clinton) talked to me before we came out on stage and he really calmed me down," she said. "He was great, very nice and very friendly."

Several Northern Kentuckians were invited to Mr. Clinton's speech. They included Shirley Huelsmann, chairwoman of the Kenton County Democratic Executive Committee, and her husband, Martin, of Fort Mitchell; Democratic Party activists Christy Nelson and Milly Diehl; and Liz Poore of Walton, who is coordinating U.S. Rep. Scotty Baesler's U.S. Senate campaign. Mr. Baesler is a Lexington Democrat.

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The Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY.)

April 9, 1998, Thursday MET:METRO

Tobacco Settlement: Companies Revolt Farmers and Retailers;

Farmers hope for some kind of agreement

Reporter: JOE WARD, The Courier-Journal

Kentucky farmers and farm leaders said they were not surprised yesterday when the major tobacco companies declared intentions to fight tobacco legislation pending in Congress, but several expressed hope that a deal still can be reached.

And retail leaders who had attacked the proposed McCain bill earlier yesterday said they hope the companies' action will lead to modification of the legislation.

"I was afraid that was going to happen," said Lexington tobacco farmer John Fritz Jr. "You can stretch a rubber band so far, and pretty soon it's going to break."

Tobacco companies had agreed in talks with attorneys general from 40 states last summer to pay out \$ 368.5 billion over 25 years in exchange for some immunity from lawsuits. Sen. John McCain's bill calls for \$ 506 billion in payments.

"When something goes to Washington, it seems to accelerate," Fritz said. "This started out about children's smoking and health. But now it seems to be about money."

About 60,000 Kentucky farmers raise tobacco, and for many it is a major source of income. Many believe that without it they would have to leave their farms.

Farmers were hoping that a settlement would give them the option of selling their tobacco quotas - federal licenses to grow specific amounts of tobacco - for a fair price and to get out of the business.

Yesterday's news raises the level of uncertainty. "I think it's a very strong sign that maybe we've gone overboard trying to work on this tobacco settlement," said Farm Bureau President Bill Sprague.

But he and others expressed hope that discussions will continue. Co-op chief executive officer Danny McKinney said he believes a deal can be reached.

"I think it's hard to know at this point how much they're playing chess, how much they're playing poker," McKinney said. "I think they'll come back to the

table. The president will call them to."

Morgan Raque, president of Tobacco Workers union Local 16T, which represents 1,400 employees at Philip Morris USA's plant in Louisville, said he would like to see some reasonable talk at this point.

"I was hoping they would reach a settlement and the future would be somewhat more secure for people I represent," he said. "Now it looks like a longer battle."

Before the tobacco companies made their announcements yesterday, Kentucky retailers and wholesalers spoke at a news conference in Louisville against the McCain bill, charging that it seems aimed more at raising revenue than at stopping youth smoking. They said it will take money out of the pockets of adult smokers, and adversely affect many others who are just trying to make a living in a legal business.

If he could get next to President Clinton in Carrollton today, Kentucky Grocers Association President Pat Hicks said, he would tell him "it's not a good proposal for anyone except those who get the money."

In Louisville, Pat Hicks, left, Kentucky Grocers Association president; Thornton Oil Corp. Vice President Dick Snider; and Joe Melton III of Melton Food Marts said tobacco legislation could hurt their businesses.

The Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY.)
 April 9, 1998, Thursday MET:METRO
 Tobacco Settlement: Companies Revolt
 Chairman: 'Congress wants us to sign a suicide note'
 Reporter: JOE WARD, The Courier-Journal

Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. Chairman Nicholas G. Brookes said yesterday that he wants to meet with President Clinton today in Carrollton, Ky., to discuss the embattled tobacco settlement.

Brookes said if given the chance, he would tell the president that the deal would destroy the tobacco industry and would "put communities in rural Kentucky on welfare."

"Congress wants us to sign a suicide note," Brookes said. "We won't do that. We won't stand by idly while a legal enterprise engaged in marketing a legal product is targeted for extinction by politicians, who in the name of our nation's youth and political correctness, have nothing more in mind than filling the coffers of the federal government."

The head of the Louisville-based company said he didn't hold out much hope that the White House would arrange the meeting with Clinton, who will visit a school and tobacco warehouse in Carrollton to push for support of the settlement.

If he can't personally meet with Clinton, Brookes said he will try to send a message via Gov. Paul Patton.

"I hope he'll be prepared to pass my thoughts on when he meets with the president," Brookes said.

B&W also expects to take eight to 10 busloads of employees, tobacco growers, representatives of the retail industry and company retirees from its headquarters to Carrollton.

"We'll get as close to the president as possible," said Joe Helewicz, B&W's corporate communications vice president. "We'll let him know our employees are concerned about their jobs."

Brookes joined officials of three of the four other largest tobacco companies yesterday in denouncing tobacco-settlement legislation as proposed by Sen. John McCain's bill.

Brookes said in an interview in Louisville that he thinks the proposed bill, which would require tobacco companies to pay out more than \$ 500 billion over 25 years, would "threaten the viability of all manufacturers in the tobacco industry."

He said the June agreement between the tobacco companies and attorneys general of 40 states - which he called a reasonable starting place for legislation - has been "pulled apart" by election-year politics, with both Democrats and Republicans trying to look tough on tobacco.

He said B&W would like to see "sanity" return to the discussion. But even if that happened soon, he said, he thinks it is too late to pass legislation this year. The question "just ends up rolling into 1999," he said. "In a non-election year, maybe we can get something going."

Brookes declined to say whether B&W would attempt to tie up legislation with litigation if Congress passes the bill anyway.

He said his company plans to join the rest of the industry in fighting the measure by going public with criticism.

"We're going to try to put out to the American people that this is not what

it is billed to be," he said. "It's not about youth smoking. This is about money. They are using the tax lever in the bluntest way possible."

Brookes said he thinks the original agreement would have done a better job of curbing youths' access to cigarettes than the McCain proposal by using parental guidance, peer pressure and education.

A CHRONOLOGY

7J February 1994 FDA Commissioner David Kessler announces he is considering regulating nicotine as a drug.

7J April 1994 The leaders of the seven largest U.S. tobacco companies, testifying before Congress, swear they do not think nicotine is addictive or dangerous and their companies do not manipulate the levels of nicotine in cigarettes.

7J May 1994 Stolen Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. documents on smoking and health are made public.

The Justice Department begins an investigation of the tobacco industry.

The B&W documents are a gold mine for Mississippi, the first state to sue the tobacco industry to recover Medicaid money spent on smoking-related illnesses. Minnesota, West Virginia and then Florida join.

7J July 1995 The Journal of the American Medical Association publishes a scientific review of the 4,000 pages of B&W documents, focusing on what B&W knew about nicotine and addiction, the link between smoking and disease, how tobacco company lawyers controlled internal scientific research and how B&W publicly misrepresented what it knew about smoking.

7J August 1995 President Clinton announces the FDA's proposed regulation of tobacco. The nation's five largest tobacco companies file suit to block the rule making procedure, selecting a U.S. District Court in North Carolina.

n7J November 1995 Jeffrey Wigand, chief of research and development for Brown & Williamson from 1989 to 1993, gives a deposition in Mississippi's lawsuit against the tobacco industry. He testifies company officials were well aware nicotine is an addictive drug, control the level of nicotine in cigarettes and took elaborate steps to keep important research on smoking and health from the public.

7J December 1995 Massachusetts joins states suing for Medicaid costs, and other states express interest.

7J March 1996 Liggett Group, the smallest of the nation's major tobacco companies, settles a class-action suit charging it with manipulating nicotine levels and agrees to drop opposition to the FDA regulations.

Three former Philip Morris officials turn whistleblower, making similar allegations in sworn statements to the FDA.

7J May 1996 Five medical researchers publish "The Cigarette Papers," analyzing the allegedly stolen B&W documents, other B&W documents obtained by Congress and private papers from the estate of a former research director of B&W's London-based parent company, B.A.T Industries PLC. The analysis shows an enormous disparity between what tobacco companies knew about dangers and addictiveness of cigarettes, and what they said publicly.

7J August 1996 Clinton approves the FDA's tobacco regulations, which would impose far-reaching restrictions on tobacco advertising and sales to adolescents.

In the first case by an individual using the B&W documents as evidence, a Florida jury awards \$ 750,000 to Grady Carter, a former air-traffic controller who has lung cancer.

7J March 1997 Liggett settles again, this time with 22 state attorneys general, insulating it from tobacco litigation in return for admitting cigarettes are addictive and providing evidence implicating other tobacco companies.

7J April 1997 Attorneys general and plaintiffs' lawyers start settlement negotiations with the tobacco industry, in connection with the growing number of states seeking compensation for smoking-related Medicaid costs. Tobacco companies seek a cap on money ailing smokers can demand in suing them, in exchange for restrictions on how tobacco is marketed and other concessions.

The U.S. District Court in North Carolina rules the FDA does have authority to regulate tobacco, though not its advertising and marketing.

7J May 1997 An FBI task force has been created to help with the federal investigation into possible fraud and perjury charges against tobacco company executives. Former Philip Morris research chief Thomas S. Osdene becomes the first to exercise his right not to incriminate himself and to negotiate with the Justice Department for immunity.

South Carolina becomes the 29th state to file suit against the tobacco industry.

7JJune 1997 The nation's biggest tobacco companies agree to submit to strict federal control over how they make and market cigarettes, and to pay \$ 368.5 billion over 25 years to compensate states for tobacco-related health costs. The deal includes protection from certain lawsuits.

7JApril 1998 Senate Commerce Committee approves legislation to raise the price of a pack of cigarettes by \$ 1.10 over five years to discourage teen smoking, and to give tobacco companies no protection from lawsuits. It would cost the industry \$ 516 billion.

The nation's four major tobacco companies declare the effort to settle the states' lawsuit dead.

Nicholas G. Brookes, chairman of Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., wants to meet President Clinton today. The plan being considered would "put communities in rural Kentucky on welfare," Brookes said.

The Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY.)

April 9, 1998, Thursday MET:METRO

Big Tobacco: No Deal

Companies say they won't back legislation

Reporter: JAMES R. CARROLL, The Courier-Journal

The nation's major tobacco companies, including Louisville-based Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., declared dead yesterday their effort to settle billions of dollars in lawsuits by the states and to join the government in combating teen smoking.

The companies' reversal comes on the eve of President Clinton's visit to Kentucky to promote a national settlement.

Steven Goldstone, chief executive officer of RJR Nabisco Inc., the parent company of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco, broke the news in a speech at the National Press Club in Washington.

Shortly afterward, Philip Morris, Lorillard Inc. and Brown & Williamson said they backed Goldstone's position. U.S. Tobacco Co. did not offer an immediate announcement.

The companies attacked the administration for abandoning the proposed June 20 agreement that would provide \$ 368.5 billion over 25 years to settle smokingrelated health claims and discourage underage smoking. Under a different plan pending in Congress, the costs to tobacco companies could balloon to \$ 516 billion.

The new developments signal an apparent end to the tobacco industry's conciliatory public relations campaign that began after last year's agreement. Comments yesterday from company officials were harsh and blunt.

"Partisan politics, the absence of White House leadership and an obsession for punishing the industry have all but destroyed any hopes of achieving a workable solution in the waning days of this congressional session," said Nicholas Brookes, B&W's chairman and chief executive officer.

Despite his pessimistic take on the settlement, Brookes said he hopes to meet with Clinton today in Carrollton, Ky., to discuss the legislation. Brookes said the settlement now being considered by Congress threatens "the viability of all manufacturers in the tobacco industry" and would "put communities in rural Kentucky on welfare."

The companies' decision - announced in statements that contained many identical phrases - were interpreted by some as a high-risk bargaining strategy to derail legislation for a settlement approved by the Senate Commerce Committee last week. The measure would cost the industry \$ 516 billion over 25 years and give cigarette companies few of the legal protections included in the June deal. But industry officials insisted they were not bluffing.

"I'm not kidding around when I say I'm done with this process," Goldstone said.

THE COMPANIES said that although they still backed the original agreement, neither the White House nor Congress appears receptive to the deal. As a result, the industry said it was pulling out of talks to forge a national settlement.

Clinton, who will meet with tobacco farmers today in Carrollton, called the decision "a big mistake."

"I think they ought to reconsider this," he told reporters at the White House. "I'm not trying to put them out of business. I'm trying to put them out of the business of selling cigarettes to children. . . . I think they ought to come back to the table and work with us."

Vice President Al Gore, who has served as host at national town meetings on tobacco, said he didn't take the industry decision too seriously.

"What you heard today was a bargaining ploy more than anything else," he said on CNN.

BARRING A change of heart, the companies' action means that any comprehensive

legislation that Capitol Hill and the administration could settle on almost certainly would be challenged by the industry in court on constitutional grounds. Such a legal struggle could delay new tobacco laws for years.

In his speech, Goldstone threatened to reopen the war in the courts over smoking-related lawsuits and to join a new battle in the fall elections against congressional candidates who support what he called a federal effort to tax the cigarette companies into bankruptcy.

"Today, it is clear to me that we have failed in our effort to achieve a comprehensive resolution of the contentious issues surrounding tobacco in our country," he said. "The extraordinary settlement . . . that could have set the nation on a dramatically new and constructive direction is dead. And there is no process which is even remotely likely to lead to an acceptable comprehensive solution this year."

The impact of the companies' decision on congressional deliberations of national legislation might be minimal, given that the industry, by its own account, has been consulted very little about the contents of the bills.

Sen. Wendell Ford, D-Ky., who voted for the commerce panel's measure despite concerns about its costs, said he understood the industry's frustration "because many of the other parties to the June 20th agreement have done nothing but backtrack since then."

"I believe the announcement made today will either cause the legislative process to disintegrate or inject some needed fiscal responsibility into the debate. Only time will tell."

ANTI-TOBACCO groups were defiant in the face of the companies' move.

"Make my day," said Richard Daynard, director of the Tobacco Products Liability Project at Northeastern University's School of Law in Boston.

"This may make it easier to get tobacco-related legislation through Congress," said Dr. Dave Cundiff, a Louisville physician who is president-elect of the American Association of Public Health Physicians. "With the tobacco companies away from the table, the chances for good public health legislation go way up."

Danny McKinney, chief executive officer of the Burley Tobacco Grower Cooperative Association, agreed.

"I assume that's somewhat posturing, or playing poker, or playing chess," he said.

CONGRESS IS in recess for the next week and a half, but many lawmakers involved in the tobacco-bill negotiations weren't particularly alarmed at the companies' move and said efforts to craft legislation would continue.

"Congress rightly refuses to rubber-stamp the sweetheart deal (the companies) negotiated last year," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., chairman of the Commerce Committee and chief author of the bill passed last week, said Congress doesn't need the industry to put together a comprehensive tobacco package. He planned to keep pushing for Senate passage of his bill.

"I think we are a long way from 'falling apart,' " he said.

Kentucky Rep. Scotty Baesler, D6th District, said the industry obviously was "taken aback by McCain's bill."

The reality, said Baesler, a tobacco farmer, is that "the settlement's been dead for a long time. . . . I don't know what they're out of.

"My feeling is that it would be prudent to get back into the discussion," Baesler said. "If Congress can do its thing without the cigarette manufacturers involved, I can't believe it won't be worse than if they were involved."

IN HIS speech, RJR's Goldstone said the effort to win support for the June 20 agreement failed for a number of reasons. The administration, he said, publicly praised the deal while it "privately dismantled it piece by piece."

In addition, he said, health groups got caught up in "a demand for retribution" and an agenda "to promote litigation and punitive damages against this industry."

Congress was to blame, too, Goldstone said, for dissolving "into a taxing frenzy on a disfavored industry and the 45 million customers it serves."

"To be completely honest," he said, "it failed also because those of us in the industry did not fully appreciate the depth of the mistrust and anger that existed about the industry's past controversies."

Goldstone said that rather than settle the 37 of 40 state lawsuits still pending against his company and others, "my instinct now is to defend ourselves as strongly as we can."

Regarding the elections, Goldstone said he had "no well-thought-out plan"

for how RJR and others might be more visible than usual in fall congressional elections. In the past the industry has been a major behind-the-scenes contributor to friendly congressional campaigns.

Caption: Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.: "I think we are a long way from 'falling apart.' "

Caption: President Clinton, calling the tobacco companies' decision a "big mistake," said he was only trying to put them "out of the business of selling cigarettes to children."

The Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY.)

April 9, 1998, Thursday MET:METRO

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT: COMPANIES REVOLT

Carrollton: A 'polite' welcome for Clinton

Reporter: DICK KAUKAS, The Courier-Journal

Watching a platform go up for President Clinton's visit today, two girls in the Carroll County High School gym agreed that his brief stopover would help put their city of about 3,700 on the map.

But junior Sara Chadwell, 17, and freshman Stephanie Hoskins, 15, said they doubt Clinton will score many points if he warns students about the dangers of smoking or urges them to quit.

"It's a rough topic around here," said Sara, noting that many of her friends' families rely on tobacco for part of their income and that lots of her classmates smoke, at least occasionally.

"I think they'll be polite and respectful, but they won't stop" smoking, Stephanie said. "I mean, everybody smokes in Carrollton."

The girls' comments suggest Clinton may not face an easy reception today as he talks to farmers and students in Carroll County about the embattled tobacco-settlement plan in Congress and about his efforts to curb teen smoking.

And his task became even tougher yesterday when four of the nation's major cigarette manufacturers said they would fight antitobacco legislation.

As a result, national attention will focus on Clinton today as he talks for the first time in any depth about the setback to his legislative plans.

Billy Ray Tackett, whose son raises tobacco on his Scott County farm, said at Brite Lite 2 tobacco warehouse that the tobacco companies' announcement "will make it harder for Clinton, without a doubt" when he talks to tobacco farmers

this morning.

The White House has said Clinton's main reason for traveling to Kentucky had been to assure farmers in the nation's second-largest tobacco-growing state that his administration and Congress intend to cushion the blow on growers caused by national tobacco legislation.

WHILE AREA residents don't expect Clinton to receive a rousing reception, neither do they expect rudeness.

"Most people here debate instead of scream," said George Harper, editor of the News Democrat, a weekly newspaper. ". . . They will argue and will debate with him. But they won't scream at him. I can't imagine any outright hostility."

Harper said he had heard from local officials that Carroll County's solid core of Democratic voters - and the lack of animosity toward Clinton - were among the reasons the president's team selected Carrollton for his visit. He carried the county in 1992 and 1996.

Carroll County relies heavily on tobacco, with many families using it to supplement their income. Assistant principal Phillip Carter estimated that 60 percent to 70 percent of the students at the high school had relatives involved in some aspect of tobacco growing or selling.

About 3.6 million pounds of burley tobacco were produced last year in the county, and lots more is sold in its warehouses - more than 38 million pounds during the 1997-98 season, about 6 million pounds more than the season before.

Among Kentucky's 120 counties, Carroll ranks second in the proportion of agricultural sales from tobacco - 62 percent, second only to 64 percent in adjacent Owen County.

CAROL DUNCAN, an English professor at the Jefferson Community College branch in Carrollton, said her daughter, Jana, 18, a student at the high school, is excited about Clinton's visit, mainly because it will be a chance to see the president - not because she expects Clinton's message to change many minds.

Several tobacco farmers made similar points yesterday.

Melvin Lyons, 61, owner of the Kentuckiana Tobacco Warehouse, where Clinton is scheduled to meet tobacco farmers and local officials, said, "I think it's probably a good thing that he's coming, but it depends on what he says."

"I wish he would be more specific on some of the issues, like the tobacco settlement."

Ernest "Junior" Welch, a tobacco farmer and owner of Welch's Restaurant on the Ohio River just off the Carroll County Courthouse square, agreed. "I don't think the president is going to hurt us or help us," Welch said. "I think he just wants to see how this tobacco business is done, and talk to a few of us farmers."

"But I do think he's a little late. He should have come to talk to us in his first term."

Nonetheless, lots of people were positive about the prospect of seeing and listening to the president.

Imogene Harris, 66, who works 30 hours a week at the McDonald's near Interstate 71, said, "A lot of people are pleased because he's coming to Carroll County, and I think it's nice."

Like several others, Harris said she wasn't bothered by allegations of Clinton's sexual relationships with a number of women.

"What he did behind closed doors doesn't bother me," Harris said. "If Hillary can put up with it, I don't care what he does."

At Carroll County Middle School, Casey Mefford, 14, an eighth-grader whose father, Dale, grows tobacco and whose mother, Kathy, is a public health nurse, said "students are excited about seeing him." He said he thinks about one-third of the students in the middle school are smokers.

One of them, Michael Raines, 14, another eighth-grader, said he knew he shouldn't be smoking but started about a year and a half ago.

"Kids start because they think it looks cool," he said, adding, "At least I don't smoke in school anymore."

The McCain deal

COST: Tobacco manufacturers would pay a fee to the government that would be passed on to smokers, increasing the cost of cigarettes by 65 cents a pack in 1999, rising to \$ 1.10 in 2003. The money raised, \$ 506 billion over 25 years, would go into a government trust fund. The legislation does not specify how the money would be spent.

7 CIVIL LIABILITY: Damages would be limited to \$ 6.5 billion a year. Claims

exceeding that would be paid in later years. No further protection against lawsuits would be given.

7JMARKETING AND ADVERTISING: Outdoor advertising would be banned as would advertising containing human images, animal figures and cartoon characters. Color advertisements would be outlawed except in adult publications. If the tobacco companies challenged these restrictions in court, the limit on liability would be eliminated.

7J YOUTH SMOKING: The goals for reduction in the number of teen-agers who smoke would be 15 percent after three years, rising to 45 percent after 10 years.

7J PENALTIES: If these targets are missed, the tobacco companies would be assessed penalties not to exceed \$ 3.5 billion a year.

7J REGULATION: The Food and Drug Administration would be given broad latitude to regulate tobacco, including advertising and youth access. If the agency decided to ban nicotine or a tobacco product, the ban would not go into effect for two years, giving Congress time to pass legislation overturning it.

7J INTERNATIONAL: Federal money could not be used to promote tobacco exports. A non-profit corporation would be established to oversee international tobacco control programs.

7J LEGAL FEES: A three-member arbitration panel would decide the fees that lawyers for successful plaintiffs could receive.

7J FARMERS: The government would buy out some tobacco growers and compensate others who continued to farm if demand for tobacco dropped. Grants would be provided to offset economic losses in some communities and to retrain farmers and tobacco workers.

Last year's deal

7JCOST: Tobacco companies would pay \$ 360.5 billion over 25 years, then \$ 15 billion a year. Of that, the deal would provide an up-front payment of \$ 10 billion - \$ 7 billion to the states and \$ 3 billion for public health measures.

7JCIVIL LIABILITY: Sick smokers still could sue the industry. Any money they won for medical bills, lost wages or other "actual damages" would come out of an annual \$ 5 billion tobacco company fund. Smokers also could receive punitive damages for any future wrongdoing by tobacco companies out of that fund. Individual smokers could not sue for punitive damages for any past misconduct by tobacco companies. All class-action lawsuits against the industry would be

banned. The lawsuits by 40 states would end. Individual smokers' lawsuits now in court would go forward.

7JMARKETING AND ADVERTISING: No billboards or other outdoor ads. No humans or cartoons in ads or on cigarette packs. Text-only ads in magazines with significant youth readership. No brand-name sponsorship of sporting events or brand-name promotional merchandise such as T-shirts.

7J YOUTH SMOKING: Industry would pay fines if youth smoking failed to drop by 30 percent in five years, 50 percent in seven years and 60 percent in 10 years.

7J PENALTIES: The penalty would be \$ 80 million per percentage point by which the target was missed. The yearly fines would begin in 2002.

7JREGULATION: The Food and Drug Administration would regulate nicotine as a drug but could not ban it until 2009, and even then would have to ensure that a ban would not cause a significant cigarette black market. Congress also would be given a chance to object. The FDA would decide whether new ingredients added to tobacco products were safe.

INFORMATIONAL BOX: CLINTON'S SCHEDULE TODAY

7J9:15 a.m.: Arrives Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport in Hebron, Ky.

7 10:25 a.m.: Meets with tobacco farmers and local officials at Kentuckiana Tobacco Warehouse on Ky. 227.

7J 12:30 p.m.: Speaks to students in the Carroll County High School gymnasium.

7 2:35 p.m.: Departs via Air Force One to return to Washington.

INFORMATIONAL BOX: TV COVERAGE

Coverage of President Clinton's visit today might interrupt regularly scheduled programming.

David Baker, an employee at McDonald's in Carrollton, adjusted the lettering on a sign greeting President Clinton, who will visit today.

Caption: BY ARZA BARNETT, THE COURIER-JOURNAL
Carroll County students Jason Stremme, 16, left, and Charles Hendricks, 14, second from left, helped set up a platform.

Caption: BY ARZA BARNETT, THE COURIER-JOURNAL
Carroll County High School student Danielle Maiden, 15, cleaned a doorway in preparation for President Clinton's visit today. The president is expected to warn students about the dangers of smoking.

Caption: "I think (students will) be polite and respectful, but they won't stop" smoking, Stephanie Hoskins said. "I mean, everybody smokes in Carrollton."

Caption: Smoking is "a rough topic around here," Sara Chadwell said. Many of her friends' families rely on tobacco for part of their income, and lots of her classmates smoke, she said.

Caption: "I don't think the president is going to hurt us or help us," Carroll County tobacco farmer Ernest "Junior" Welch said. "I think he just wants to . . . talk to a few of us farmers."

10.04.1998 - 14:57 - norr

04.1998 MET:METRO NEWS 01A — □ IN THE HEART OF TOBACCO COUNTRY; CLINTON

dition=MET:METRO; Date=10.04.1998; Section=NEWS; Page=01A;

Headline: IN THE HEART OF TOBACCO COUNTRY; CLINTON COURTS FARMERS

SubHead: Farmer lectures Clinton – and he loves it

Byline: AL CROSS, C-J Political Writer**Dateline:** CARROLLTON, Ky.

Mattie Mack stole the show from the president of the United States yesterday.

One of eight citizens invited to a stage-managed round-table discussion of tobacco and teen-age smoking, the Brandenburg tobacco farmer told the president bluntly that he is unfairly punishing tobacco farmers with efforts to cut teen-age smoking by raising taxes, curbing tobacco advertising and other measures.

"It takes the parents," said Mack, noting that she raised 38 foster children and four of her own in a household where no one smoked but paid its bills with tobacco money.

"The parents are going to have to teach these children the right way about this tobacco," Mack continued. "Tell them here's the right way and the wrong way. There is a wrong way in having a gun; there's a wrong way in drinking whiskey, and everything. . . . But cutting out tobacco is not going to help a thing, because they're going to go to something else."

Though her message was blunt, Mack delivered it with style and verve, and Clinton was clearly entertained — perhaps one performer appreciating another in a setting designed for television. He had already seen Mack, in a documentary about four Kentucky farm families called "Tobacco Blues," to be shown soon on public TV.

As Clinton greeted her yesterday, Mack said, the president told her he had watched the documentary aboard Air Force One as he flew to Kentucky. After Mack finished, about all Clinton could do was tell aides who arranged for the showing: "You guys didn't oversell it. It was just like you said it would be."

Later, in a speech, Clinton said Mack "gave me a pretty good little lecture."

Mack and the others had also been prepared for the round-table session. She said a Clinton aide called her to see how she would answer questions.

The round table had another intriguing exchange, started by Kentucky Farm Bureau President Bill Sprague, who suggested that one way to curb youth smoking was to follow his father's example and reward non-smoking children with \$1,000 when they turn 21.

Clinton asked Marissa Vaught, an anti-smoking activist at Carroll County High School, if she liked that kind of incentive. She said she did.

"You've really piqued my interest here," Clinton said. "I don't know that the government could offer every 18-year-old \$1,000 on their 18th birthday if they could prove they never smoked a cigarette, but there may be some other things we could do in the area of getting young people to assume more responsibility and providing some rewards and doing some things that we haven't thought."

Caption: Mack**Copyright 1998 The Courier-Journal**

10.04.1998 - 14:56 - norr

04.1998 MET:METRO BUSINESS 01F — □ Tobacco's dismal season ends SubHead: Beset by

Edition=MET:METRO; Date=10.04.1998; Section=BUSINESS; Page=01F;

Headline: Tobacco's dismal season ends

SubHead: Beset by bad weather, falling prices and political pressures, tobacco growers had plenty to grumble about on the final day of the season — and some fear what 1998 will bring.

Byline: JOE WARD, The Courier-Journal

Dateline: LEXINGTON, Ky.

Farmers selling the few remaining pounds of tobacco from last fall's harvest at the Big Burley No. 1 tobacco warehouse yesterday had plenty to grumble about.

It was the last day of the worst tobacco season in recent memory — a season plagued by too much rain in the spring, too little rain in the summer and a damaging fall freeze.

The tobacco companies had essentially stopped buying anything weeks ago, so all of the tobacco was going into a surplus pool run by the burley growers — or it was rejected, because the quality was so poor.

The lack of good tobacco pushed this season's average price down to \$1.89 a pound compared with \$1.92 a pound last season.

And to add a little extra sting, President Clinton, who is supporting tough tobacco settlement legislation that could lead to lower demand for tobacco, was in Carrollton, Ky., yesterday.

"He's the biggest disaster farmers ever had," said Kenneth Hizer, of Hardin County.

"Don't get me started on this country," he said. "Farmers are always at the bottom of the bowl. The people who generate the most new wealth are the lowest paid."

Hizer squinched his eyes and figured for a minute, then estimated his hourly pay for 1997 at "minus a bunch."

Tobacco was terrible, he said, and grain wasn't good, either.

"I'd be a quarter of a million dollars better off if I'd done nothing all year," he said.

Others tending chores in the huge, dimly lit warehouse joined Hizer in taking jabs at Clinton. Steve Anderson, of Baxley, Ga., a tobacco speculator, was banding bales as Hizer unloaded them.

"We don't need Bill and Hillary running our lives," Hizer said.

"He can't run his own," Anderson said.

Yesterday was the last of four burley cleanup auctions days. The auction schedule usually doesn't pass mid-March, but extra days were added to give more of the slow-curing crop of 1997 time to mature in hopes of getting some farmers a paycheck before next fall's auctions.

Scott Alhauser, leaf-processing specialist for the Lexington-based Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association, said most of the tobacco at the April cleanup sales was bought by the co-op to be placed in a surplus pool and resold later as tobacco companies need it.

Some farmers were taking tobacco home again rather than accepting prices as low as 25 cents a pound. They hope it will cure further and can be sold at higher prices next year.

10.04.1998 - 14:56 - norr

04.1998 MET:METRO BUSINESS 01F — □ Tobacco's dismal season ends SubHead: Beset by

Yesterday's average price was \$1.69 a pound, down 11 cents from Wednesday and 20 cents below this season's average. The Federal-State Tobacco Market News Service reported that 4.6 million pounds were sold yesterday at warehouses in Lexington, Cynthiana, Danville, Owensboro and Shelbyville.

News Service burley reporter Gina Thomas said those sales brought total sales for the cleanup week to about 8.7 million pounds, compared with about 99 million pounds in a typical week before Christmas.

Despite bad weather and tobacco that failed to cure properly, University of Kentucky tobacco economist Will Snell said sales for the year — which reached 678 million pounds — were above the last official estimates.

As of January, Department of Agriculture experts estimated the crop at 565 million pounds, he said, and tobacco companies told Snell they expected to see 550 million to 575 million pounds.

Snell noted that this year's purchases by the burley co-ops bring their holdings to about 150 million pounds, 50 or so million more than is considered ideal.

He said the excess is not a problem for the time being, but could be if farmers produce too much tobacco in 1998.

The co-ops are part of a federal program that keeps tobacco prices stable by controlling production. Each year the secretary of agriculture asks the tobacco companies how much they expect to buy, and sets quotas that also take into consideration tobacco exports and stocks held by the farmer-owned co-ops, or pools. The quotas tell individual farmers how much they can grow.

The program also sets floor prices for the various tobacco grades. If the companies don't bid at least a penny a pound more than a support price, the co-ops buy the tobacco, paying farmers with money from a government loan. The system is designed to cut back on production enough so that the companies eventually will buy the surplus pool tobacco, and the loan is paid back with interest.

Excess pool stocks are a problem for farmers because they push quotas down, and farmers take what amounts to a cut in pay until the stocks get back to normal. But when farmers don't reach their own quotas in any given year, they can make up for it the next.

The last three crops have fallen short of quotas through the eight-state burley tobacco belt, and the result is that farmers can grow a lot of tobacco this year. But the tobacco companies have shown signs of caution while Congress considers legislation that could reduce cigarette consumption.

Snell said it all adds up to a potential for adding another 150 million to 200 million pounds to pool stocks next year, "depending on the size of the 1998 crop and what happens in the settlement" in Congress.

If supply exceeds demand next year, it could hurt farmers like Ken Lashley, of Clarkson, Ky., in Grayson County, who said yesterday he'd probably have to take a few thousand pounds of his tobacco home.

"It took a freeze in the barn," he said. "Never had that happen before. I'll have to take it home and open it up and let it cure" and try to sell it next year, he said.

Snell said such tobacco probably won't sell next year if there is a lot of good new tobacco.

It could also be bad for the longterm plans of Michael Puckett, 16, a stepson of Morris Hizer, brother to Kenneth Hizer.

Puckett said that, "God willing," he plans to raise tobacco someday, just like his stepfather. Puckett said he doesn't think the government will have much luck stopping people his age from smoking.

"The more it tries, the more enticing it will be," Puckett said.

And he said high prices won't do it. He said he has friends who, when caught smoking at school, just go ahead and finish the cigarette, "because they can't afford to keep snuffing them out."

Puckett, a sophomore at Central Hardin High School near Elizabethtown, said he doesn't smoke himself but wouldn't try to

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04.1998 MET:METRO NEWS 09A — □ PRESIDENT CLINTON IN TOBACCO COUNTRY

dition=MET:METRO; Date=10.04.1998; Section=NEWS; Page=09A;

Headline: PRESIDENT CLINTON IN TOBACCO COUNTRY

SubHead: BROWN & WILLIAMSON; Busloads of workers are vocal, visible along motorcade route

Byline: DICK KAUFAS, The Courier-Journal

Dateline: CARROLLTON, Ky.

As the motorcade crept up the hill toward Carrollton in a light rain yesterday morning, about 150 demonstrators did their best to let President Clinton know he wasn't entering friendly territory.

The protesters, most from Louisville-based Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., stood in a line about a hundred yards long, raising signs that read, "Tobacco is my livelihood" and "I'm a tobacco employee," among other things.

They chanted, "Save our jobs, save our jobs" as the motorcade whisked past.

Pro-tobacco spectators dominated the crowd along the motorcade route and outside the Kentuckiana Tobacco Warehouse and Carroll County High School, where the president spoke to tobacco farmers, students and others.

In all, Brown & Williamson officials said they had put together 11 busloads of protesters — more than 500 people.

Among them was Nicholas Brookes, B&W's chairman. But he wasn't part of the small group that got to talk to the president at the warehouse.

"We asked if we could be included, but we were refused," Brookes said as he stood beside the rented buses with some of his employees around noon yesterday.

Brookes noted that after B&W and three other major cigarette manufacturers announced Wednesday that they would fight the national tobacco settlement before Congress, Clinton had indicated he wanted the companies to remain part of the negotiating process.

"If that's so, why wouldn't he include us" in the warehouse meeting? Brookes asked.

ULIA PAYNE, a White House spokeswoman, said last night that she had been unable to find anyone "who received a formal request" from Brookes. But, she said, "in any event the day was devoted to farmers and kids, and it's not something we would have invited industry folks to."

Melissa Forbes, manager of internal affairs for Brown & Williamson, said employees were told about the plans for the demonstration about two days ago, and that it was Brookes' idea.

"Mr. Brookes said it was important for our company," she said, adding that employees were given the choice of whether to participate.

Those who did so received full pay for the day, Forbes said.

The company also paid for the buses, box lunches and soft drinks, and for printing many of the signs with messages written by employees, Forbes said.

Even though he didn't get a chance to talk to the president, Brookes said the protesters probably had attracted enough media attention "to get our message across. We wanted people to know that just because the president comes for a visit, the people of Kentucky aren't going to roll over and support legislation that would decimate rural communities in the state."

“We’re not against the farmer,” she stressed. However, she spoke fervently against the idea of giving tobacco companies

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community against lawsuits, saying they should be held accountable for hooking young people on cigarettes.

acqueline Jones, the Carroll County senior who introduced Clinton at the high school event, said the one-hour wait she had backstage almost unnerved her.

But she said Clinton, when he finally arrived, soon put her at ease by joking that she looked nervous and assuring her she'd do a good job. "He was so comforting," she said.

After his speech, Clinton descended from the stage and shook hands with audience members, mostly teenagers, for 25 minutes.

Some, like Karen Miller, 18, of Carrollton, were left giddy.

"I didn't expect this," she said, after shaking Clinton's hand and having her photograph taken with him. Karen, a senior, wants to be a teacher, but said Clinton's visit whetted in her a deeper interest in politics.

The teen-agers who are anti-smoking activists told Clinton about their activities and gave him two T-shirts.

One said, "Smoke stinks." The other read: "Growing tobacco should not mean growing smokers."

"I was so excited," said Sarah Wong, 16, a START member who is a junior at Lexington's Bates Creek High. "He liked my shirt, so I gave it to him."

Caption: BY JAMES H. WALLACE, THE COURIER-JOURNAL

President Clinton reached out to greet students after his speech yesterday at Carroll County High School. The president spent about 25 minutes shaking hands with members of the audience of about 2,000.

Caption: BY ARZA BARNETT, THE COURIER-JOURNAL

Clinton told his audience gathered in the high school gym that he favors legislation that will reduce the teen-smoking rate by half over the next decade. "How can you do that and be fair to the tobacco farmers and their communities?" he asked. "That is the issue here. Now, I think we can do it."

Caption: BY JAMES H. WALLACE, THE C-J

A Carroll County High School student was among those taking a stance against smoking.

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Year=1998; Month=4; Month=Apr; Day=10; Day=Fr; Book=A; Source=STAFF; Byline=GARRETT_ROBERT_T;
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10.04.1998 - 15:03 - norr

04.1998 MET:METRO NEWS 08A — □ PRESIDENT CLINTON IN TOBACCO COUNTRY

Edition=MET:METRO; Date=10.04.1998; Section=NEWS; Page=08A;

Headline: PRESIDENT CLINTON IN TOBACCO COUNTRY

SubHead: CARROLL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL; STUDENTS EXPRESS SKEPTICISM, SUPPORT

Byline: ROBERT T. GARRETT, The Courier-Journal

Dateline: CARROLLTON, Ky.

Brian Young and Julia Jones are Kentucky farm kids who couldn't be farther apart in their views of tobacco.

Brian, 17, is all for the golden leaf.

Julia, 16, wants Kentucky to wean itself from the weed.

But they and hundreds of other teen-agers who converged on Carrollton yesterday to hear President Clinton seemed to agree with his message that the state's burley-growing communities need the nation's help to reach a less tobacco-dependent future.

Clinton said he wants legislation that will reduce the teen-smoking rate by half over the next decade.

"How can you do that and be fair to the tobacco farmers and their communities?" he told more than 2,000 people in Carroll County High School's gymnasium. "That is the issue here. Now, I think we can do it."

BRIAN, a fifth-generation tobacco farmer from adjacent Trimble County, applauded Clinton's pledge to protect farmers. But he added, "I hope he can live up to what he said when it comes down to the wire."

Brian, who speaks rhapsodically about lessons in hard work and "good morals" taught by tobacco cultivation, is far less enthusiastic about the federal government. He expressed skepticism that government actions can curb teen smoking.

Families should have that duty, he said. The steep price increases and marketing restrictions proposed in federal legislation would backfire, he said.

That's only going to make teenagers want to do it more," said Brian, a regional leader in the Future Farmers of America who plans to study agriculture at the University of Kentucky this fall. "You know, it's cool to do something illegal and get away with it."

BUT JULIA, a junior from Bourbon County, said she thinks some of the ideas proposed in a bill in the Senate would make a big dent in teen smoking. Among them are a cigarette price increase of \$1.10 per pack and strict limits on tobacco advertising.

Julia was one of a half-dozen young anti-smoking activists from Central Kentucky who traveled to Carrollton. They repeatedly led the audience's applause for Clinton during his speech.

"I appreciated everything he said today about trying to help teens," Julia said.

She said her family quit growing tobacco, for moral and financial reasons, "when I was little." But her father remains a smoker, despite repeated efforts to quit. He supports her effort to prevent teen smoking, she said. "He's very glad. He doesn't want me to smoke."

Although some of Julia's friends in START, or Students Teaching Awareness Regarding Tobacco, are quick to call cigarette manufacturers "criminals," she uses softer rhetoric.

10.04.1998 - 15:03 - norr

04.1998 MET:METRO NEWS 01A — IN THE HEART OF TOBACCO COUNTRY; CLINTON

Edition=MET:METRO; Date=10.04.1998; Section=NEWS; Page=01A;

Headline: IN THE HEART OF TOBACCO COUNTRY; CLINTON COURTS FARMERS

SubHead: Farmer lectures Clinton – and he loves it

Byline: AL CROSS, C-J Political Writer

Dateline: CARROLLTON, Ky.

Mattie Mack stole the show from the president of the United States yesterday.

One of eight citizens invited to a stage-managed round-table discussion of tobacco and teen-age smoking, the Brandenburg tobacco farmer told the president bluntly that he is unfairly punishing tobacco farmers with efforts to cut teen-age smoking by raising taxes, curbing tobacco advertising and other measures.

"It takes the parents," said Mack, noting that she raised 38 foster children and four of her own in a household where no one smoked but paid its bills with tobacco money.

"The parents are going to have to teach these children the right way about this tobacco," Mack continued. "Tell them here's the right way and the wrong way. There is a wrong way in having a gun; there's a wrong way in drinking whiskey, and everything. . . . But cutting out tobacco is not going to help a thing, because they're going to go to something else."

Though her message was blunt, Mack delivered it with style and verve, and Clinton was clearly entertained — perhaps one performer appreciating another in a setting designed for television. He had already seen Mack, in a documentary about four Kentucky farm families called "Tobacco Blues," to be shown soon on public TV.

As Clinton greeted her yesterday, Mack said, the president told her he had watched the documentary aboard Air Force One as he flew to Kentucky. After Mack finished, about all Clinton could do was tell aides who arranged for the showing: "You guys didn't oversell it. It was just like you said it would be."

Later, in a speech, Clinton said Mack "gave me a pretty good little lecture."

Mack and the others had also been prepared for the round-table session. She said a Clinton aide called her to see how she would answer questions.

The round table had another intriguing exchange, started by Kentucky Farm Bureau President Bill Sprague, who suggested that one way to curb youth smoking was to follow his father's example and reward non-smoking children with \$1,000 when they turn 21.

Clinton asked Marissa Vaught, an anti-smoking activist at Carroll County High School, if she liked that kind of incentive. She said she did.

"You've really piqued my interest here," Clinton said. "I don't know that the government could offer every 18-year-old \$1,000 on their 18th birthday if they could prove they never smoked a cigarette, but there may be some other things we could do in the area of getting young people to assume more responsibility and providing some rewards and doing some things that we haven't thought."

Caption: Mack

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