



July 1, 1998 -- Weekly Report

Tobacco -- Executive Orders: We are exploring several ideas for possible executive actions on tobacco in order to keep the pressure on Congress over the coming weeks. The first one we have prepared for you to unveil early in the week is an Executive Memorandum which directs HHS to make the recently released tobacco documents more accessible to the public health community, the scientific community, litigants and the general public. (While these documents are currently available via the Internet, they have not been organized in any comprehensible manner whatsoever, making it extremely difficult for the public to obtain documents on any given subject.) The Memorandum will: require HHS to create a user-friendly database and/or index of the documents and make the index and/or documents widely available; require scientific analysis of the documents for information relating to the public health; and potentially create a Federal depository for the documents.

We are also preparing several other Executive Memoranda which would: ban underage smoking on Federal land and deny filming privileges on Federal property for movies that portray youth smoking; require enforcement of a Goals 2000 provision which bans smoking in buildings where federally funded children's health, day care, education, or library services are provided; and direct HHS to collect and disseminate State counteradvertising campaigns targeting youth smoking, waive the fees that CDC currently charges for use of the ads they have on file at their media center, and undertake a Federal counteradvertising campaign which we will make available to the states. Finally, we are preparing an Executive Order requiring OSHA to issue within a year a standard protecting workers from environmental tobacco smoke (they have been working on a standard for almost a decade which addresses both ETS and air pollutants such as harmful bacteria and hazardous chemicals.)