

Dr. Seehofer

24.6. 1986

Re Smoking Issues (Thornton Definition)

Reference Conference of SRG, Montreal

0 Theme: Survey of German experts and of research activities
of German Committees.

1. Interview Scenario:

1.1 Scope of the Survey

It was intended that the 'palette' should stretch from medicine, through chemistry and biology, to the political bodies, legislature, executive and administration (LMBG and DIN).

Old-established lines of communication were to be used in this, in order to be able to document, to the highest extent, personal convictions, the latest position on as yet unpublished knowledge, and expectations for the future. Amongst the institutions consulted are Universities, BGA, the Länder research institutes, DIN, Cancer Research Institute, Health Office, as well as independent scientists (industrial chemists).

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1.2 Name and Address List

Prof. Schmähl, Preussman, Spiegelhalder and Zeller; Cancer
Research, Heidelberg

Prof. Baltes, TU Berlin

Dr. Baranowski, Dr. Reinert, 'Land' Research Institute

Dr. Spengler, Senate, Berlin

Prof. Krönert, Frau Krüll, Dr. Lander and Dr. Weber, BGA

Prof. Haevecker, Fachhochschule, Berlin

Prof. Mohr, TU Hanover

Prof. Greim, University of Munich

Prof. Vester, Environmental Institute

Dr. Kirchhoff, industrial chemist, Berlin

1.3 Survey Technique

This really prospective analysis was intended to sum up the state of published knowledge to date, and to indicate a prognosis of the future for politics and product. At first, only the title was explained, and free association recorded.

Then questions were asked according to the following structure, in order to cover all the necessary problems.

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1.4 Subject Listing

0 Definition smoking issues

(Scientific Research Group (SRG) - Terms of Reference

From a scientific view point smoking issues are defined as the effects of smoking, if any, on the smoker, particularly claims as to the association between smoking, and individual smoke components, with specific diseases and/or normal health)

1. Smoking and health

1.1 Own opinion (one's own and what one has read)

1.2 Pure science

1.3 Media and Politics

1.4 Active smokers

1.5 Morbidity (LCa, CHD, COLD)

1.6 Passive smokers

2. Political

2.1 Smoking prohibitions, Anti-PR (social)

2.2 ISO, DIN

2.3 Smoking habit, addiction

3. Suspects

3.1 Nicotine

3.2 CO

3.3 PAH, Bap

3.4 NA

4. HB 2000

4.1 Process propositions

4.2 Product propositions

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1.5 Summarising the experience

Answers were given gladly and willingly, and from some professors quite long lectures were obtained.

Apart from individual interests, the following emerged clearly

- a) Heavy emphasis on own subject and area of specialism
- b) Very emphatic views on smoking (active and passive), whether smoker or non-smoker
- c) Very diversely faceted critical attitude to smoking
- d) Positive prognosis for the continuation this century of the smoking habit
- e) Increase of environmental awareness (Greens) will intensify counter pressures, but will not give rise to excessive legislative measures
- f) No sensational new 'anti' findings are expected in medicine (Planta scandal) or chemistry (Bap)
- g) Interesting requirements for HB 2000, eg. NTM, nicotine dispensing, 3-stage products
- h) Analogous measures were recommended as occur in Beer (- NA), Jam, Yoghurt and coffee (artificial flavourings) and some pre-pyrolysis or extraction.
- i) Nicotine of major interest. Uniformly viewed fairly positively. There was criticism of the insufficient emphasis on benefits research, advertising and PR, i.e. public and political relations.

One should not say: Every risk however small must be absolutely avoided. Rather, as in every risk assessment: Are the advantages not more important, more diverse and more important for the quality of life both now and longer term. Setting the Goodies against the Baddies! Zest for life always has a positive health aspect, and is even a pre-requisite for positive living and experiences.

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1.6 Summary Smoking Issues Germany

- 1.Smoking and health
- 2.Medicine,literature and new positive knowledge
- 3.Smoker behaviour(consumer,passive,addiction,benefits)
- 4.Research, analysis, DIN
- 5.Process, product, HB2000

1. Smoking and health

Formerly, illness was seen as fate. The risk of smoking should be made calculable and reduced- "defusing". Endogenous carcinogens are higher (tryptophan, NA). Thus one should take into account fact and fiction of ultra-microanalysis and low-risk epidemiology. "The risk of low-risk assessment". With increased environmental awareness (since Chernobyl, three times more reports to the "Land" Environmental Offices), smoker behaviour will not alter substantially. Anti-smokers are militant, anti-drinkers are not. Bans and printed warnings are becoming dull, cessation programmes have had little success with us (Preussmann) and in the USA (Wynder). Only tax and sickness insurance rises would be effective here.

It was thought that no new sensational undesirable key substances would assume a new scientific importance, be it medically, as harmful substances, Herzfeld Index or analytically as a benefit or DIN imprint.

The question on benefits was posed, but the response was sibylline, like the Gorch-Fock motto:
"FUMARE NECESSE EST,VIVERE NON EST NECESSE"
(To smoke is necessary, to live is not)

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2. Medicine, Literature and new positive knowledge

Zellers in particular reported his own positive results and more recent publications. Thus moderate quantities of Bap are claimed to activate enzymes (Remmers). CO is claimed to have certain positive vascular effects (Vasa-vasorum). A real healing of small-cell plate epithelium carcinomas was found, and their own results have shown that nicotine reduces transplanted neuro-carcinomas by 40% (see publ. Titisee).

3. Smoker behaviour (Consumers, passive, addiction, benefits)

There will still be smoking in 100 years' time, during which consumption and risk would shift to women and the less-educated. The need for more quality of life stands opposed to an increased and often invasive health awareness. No-one wants to (or should) castigate himself. Smokers, non-smokers and anti-smokers admit to clear advantages in the emotional area. Opponents counter with the spectre of addiction or with the statement that smoking is not one of life's necessities. Careful questioning, however, also permits the risks of a weekend excursion in the car, or a lobster salad with mayonnaise to be defined as not necessities of life either.

The criticism of passive smoking is mainly on hygienic grounds. Cigarette butts lying around, old smoke smelling like an old man, and irritation of the mucous membrane. Aromatisation of the 'smoker's fug' was felt to be desirable. Positive scent of a real man (advertising slogan).

4. Research, Analytical techniques, DIN

Understanding of the physiological nicotine effect is only in its beginnings, according to Schmahl criticising the FRGG. Effort had been wasted on details and the cerebral effect had been neglected. With the 'nicotine pump' (Zeller)

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nicotine effects can be observed separately from smoke. Just as necessary are observations on nicotine-free tobacco smoke.

Preussmann and Spiegelhalter consider the removal of tobacco-specific nitrosamines to be very necessary, and the gas phase has been neglected because of the "Bap dogma".

Control is only possible by law and ordinance. Even "lists of ingredients" are possible. The minimum requirement called for is for TPM, then PAH, CO and sorbic acid (maximum 200 ppm in Marlboro).

5. Process, Product, HB 2000

"Cigarettes must pong and give off smoke, otherwise they are no longer cigarettes". An unlighted cigarette was seen to be innocuous and harmless. It can only succeed with tobacco and smoke. Industries parallel to tobacco were referred to:
-NA in whisky and beer, -chlorinated hydrocarbons in coffee, -PAH in coffee and smoked flavours, +aroma in jams (limonene, terpineol) and yoghurt, -pesticides in coffee, +coumarin possibly permitted (Schmähl)

A blend with cellulose (NTM) was proposed, and a reduction of tar production by extraction or prepyrolysis (<600 °C), and aroma addition according to the aromagram.

The product itself should be cheaper, longer, coloured (pink, purple), rolled or fluted. The first puff should be stronger and the smell more pleasant; this applies especially to stale smoke (room-note).

For an HB2000, the following are proposed:
Introduction of additional nicotine (in capsules) in

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a form suitable for self-dosing.

Three-strength products, with a maximum during the working day, thus various 'x' with small, moderate and high nicotine, x light, x medium and x strong.

These three cigarette types in the same or different packs. Agressive and varying pack designs.

Signed: Dr F. Seehofer

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