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Government action on smoking was covered in all the national dailies with headlines emphasizing various aspects of the question. Some were on the smoking "safety code" theme, others mentioned restrictions on cigarette advertising, and two touched on dangers from smoking. The articles were essentially based on Sir Keith Joseph's statement. John Stevenson in the Daily Mail said that the first league table prepared by the Government Chemist, Dr. Harold Egan, was expected next February. The Scientific Liaison Committee's report was mentioned in most of the papers, with extracts from it (mainly about grouping of brands or advice to smokers) in three of them. The Daily Telegraph was the only paper to mention the second report published yesterday by the Department of Health, on the health and social security costs of smoking. John Kemp, the writer of the article, looking only as far ahead as 1981, noted the optimistic forecasts about savings and improved productivity which the report envisages in the relatively short term. The tobacco industry's part in the Committee was mentioned, but not stressed, in several papers. John Cunningham, in the Guardian, noted the Secretary of State's reference to the extent of the industry's role in its discussions.

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