

Passes to - A. M. ... 18/4/74

EXTRACTS FROM NOTES OF RESEARCH CONFERENCE MEETINGS

CHAIRER BY DR. S.J. GREEN

(In each case I understand that the other delegates present approved the notes).

January, 1974 - Duck Key, Florida

The discussion was wide ranging and covered most of the activities of research and development in the various Companies represented. The main conclusions and recommendations were as follows.

1. The decision that B-A.T. would not use non-tobacco materials without a demonstrable advantage on health grounds has proved particularly effective in influencing Amcel developments - and since I.T.L. at that time concurred, probably in influencing the development of N.S.M. The interpretation by R. & D. of "demonstrable advantage" was a reduction in specific activity for smoke or condensate by most or all relevant biological tests available. It is now recognised that the development of the non-tobacco materials and their possible "acceptance" by medical authorities may change the position. Also the non-tobacco materials may become commercially very attractive on supply and price grounds.

It is therefore now proposed that, although reduction in specific activity across the board would be most attractive and reduction in specific activity on key tests desirable, in the absence of significant behavioural differences, reduction in activity per cigarette (in all relevant tests) should now be accepted as sufficient for alternative smoking materials, both tobacco and non-tobacco.

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1976 - Montreal

2. The Tobacco Division Board planning papers on the following subjects were reviewed in detail.

- a) Smoking and Health
- b) Development of Products and Technology
- c) Production facilities

It was felt that the following points had not been adequately covered:-

- i) Although nicotine will be considered by some doctors * to be less harmful than tar, there will be increasing recognition by some medical authorities that smoking is a nicotine dependent activity. This will, in part, condition attitudes to nicotine.
- ii) There will be an increasing tendency to associate specific smoke constituents with particular diseases.
- iii) Although medical authorities will continue to advise smokers not to inhale, they will not be inclined to press for any specific developments such as products designed to limit inhalation.
- iv) Other than the sectors presently involved, the chemical * industry is now expected to sit on the fence in relation to the introduction of new smoking materials. ICI and Celanese, on the other hand, are expected to seek avenues for a more aggressive approach.
- v) Product modifications will be seen by the anti-smokers * as an indication of increasing success, but a body of responsible practical doctors will recognise this as progress in the direction they desire.
- vi) In the foreseeable future, we shall be able to achieve, * with all tobacco cigarettes, all that can be done with substitutes in smoking and health terms.

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vii) Although no sudden breakthrough is envisaged to solve the smoking and health problem, scientific research will give rise to products seen to be healthier by some authorities

viii) There is a requirement for more work on the effects of smoking, in order that any benefits may be identified. This applies particularly in the social and psychological fields.

ix) We must learn how to make ethical and sound health claims.

x) More effort should be devoted to nicotine, its analogues * and the identified important chemical substances in cigarette smoke. There is a good case for carrying out short term inhalation studies on nicotine for comparison with tobacco, and possibly for the development of very low nicotine cigarettes for the identified susceptible minority.

xi) Consideration should be given to the problems arising from passive smoking.

xii) It was felt that there was a need to plan activity in the following areas in order to meet with the requirements of the planning documents:-

- a) Clear and responsible statements on the case in favour * of smoking
- b) Efforts to meet requirements for growing leaf with modified chemical composition
- c) Research generally into additives and flavours

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Rio de Janeiro - 1977

13. There was unanimous agreement that the separation of risk assessment and safety judgement (acceptability of risk) offered considerable advantages in the logical approach to a variety of problems. It was not implied that those assessing risk were less competent to judge safety, indeed in some circumstances they are eminently in a better position to do so. However, even when the same people both evaluate risk and judge safety, it makes for logical clarity and effectiveness to be aware of the difference in the functions. In discussion a particularly telling point was made in regard to the present position of saccharin in the U.S.A. The application of the Delaney Amendment in effect means that safety is "decided" before the assessment of risk.

A comparable separation of functions was seen between "the effects of smoke on smokers" and the judgement of this as "benefits". While the effects could be determined objectively, the judgement as to whether these were "beneficial" or not was a value judgement made by the individual. It is therefore impossible to decide in advance of a study whether the results will be a "benefit".

14. It was agreed that the book "Of Acceptable Risk" by W.W. Lowrance should be drawn to the attention of general management and consideration should be given to stimulating, supporting and publicising the concepts more widely in order to get them generally adopted.

L.C.F. BLACKMAN

18th April, 1980.

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