

RADIO-TV NEWS Monitoring Service

P.O. BOX 153 POINTE CLAIRE - DORVAL, QUEBEC H9R 4N9 • TELEPHONE (514) 341-4702

PROGRAM CANADA A.M.	DATE MAY 25, 1977.
NETWORK/STATION CTV NETWORK	TIME 7:50 a.m.

SLOW-BURN CIGARETTES COULD REDUCE FIRE HAZARD

(Note: The following is an excerpt from a discussion on problems with consumer safety legislation. Ellen Roseman is consumer reporter for the Globe and Mail.)

ELLEN ROSEMAN:- I think the hardest area to deal with is inflammability. Carpets, now there are regulations for those, but there is nothing for--the government is working on mattresses, but there's nothing for furniture. And a lot of house fires are caused by cigarettes which roll into crannies of sofas and they smolder there. Nobody notices and they can smolder for a couple of hours, then all of a sudden the fire starts. And it's very difficult to get into treating furniture, because how do you test the thing? You've really got to burn up the whole sofa, you know, \$500 down the drain just to test it. And you get into the design of the thing. Can you regulate how a sofa should be designed to...

HELEN HUTCHINSON:- And do we want that kind of sofa, anyway, those of us who are devoted to squishy sofas, you know, with lots of cushions on them?

ROSEMAN:- And a lot of the manufacturers of these products get angry and they say, "Why bother with us? Why don't you go to the cigarette manufacturers and get them to change the design of their cigarettes?" And they argue that there are different ways of making a cigarette to make it less--to make it burn more slowly. If you change the paper on a cigarette, there are papers that don't burn very well, and they're used up North in the forest fire areas...

HUTCHINSON:- That's interesting. I didn't know that at all.

ROSEMAN:- Yes, in some forests you're not allowed to go in with commercial cigarettes. You have to roll your own. And the paper that is involved is a very low-burn paper, and there could be a way to use that in ordinary cigarettes. But I talked to some of the cigarette manufacturers and they say here again there's a trade-off, because if you use this kind of low-burning paper it releases more tar and nicotine and so you have a health problem.

105384168