



Subject: Weekly Highlights

Date: January 14, 1981

To: J. A. Giles

From: Frank G. Colby

1. A preliminary analysis of the 1981 Surgeon General's Report was prepared within minutes of its official release, and within about an hour after receiving a pre-publication draft through our Legal Department. I am disagreeing with the interpretation of the Tobacco Institute that the 1981 Report is an improvement over previous reports.
2. An important study is appearing this coming Friday in the Journal of the American Medical Association. It alleges that there is an inverse relationship in men between cigarette smoking and colon cancer; i.e., non smoking males have more colon cancer than heavy smokers. The data show a dose-response type relationship. This paper is all the more significant because of its appearance in JAMA. Also significant is that there is - contrary to Establishment views (e.g. Wynder) - an inverse relationship between cholesterol and colon cancer. (It should also be remembered that colon cancer is the most frequent cancer in men after lung cancer.) Further, it is of importance that these data come from the famous Framingham study.

Characteristically the JAMA paper, neither in the title nor in the abstract, features the inverse relationship to cigarette smoking. However, these data are unequivocally discussed in the body of the paper and evidenced through a graph and a table. A more detailed analysis of the study is in preparation.

FGC/ks

cc: C.W.N. ✓
A.R.

50162 6400

