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COMMENTS ON CANCER SOCIETY BOOKLET

Washington -- Commenting on a booklet, "Cigarette Smoking and Cancer," issued by the American Cancer Society, George V. Allen, President of The Tobacco Institute, Inc., issued the following statement:

There is dispute among scientists as to the causes of lung cancer. Many differing opinions exist. This booklet summarizes the views of the staff of the American Cancer Society, which have been expressed on many occasions in recent years, and are presumably well-known to the scientific community and the public. The booklet does not purport to contribute new knowledge.

It is our belief that the answers to questions about diseases such as lung cancer will come through the research laboratory, not through booklets or campaigns for or against smoking.

In this booklet, the authors purport to answer "point by point" the questions raised by those who do not accept their conclusions. In this effort, the authors do an injustice to the many scientists, unconnected with the tobacco industry, who hold differing views. They have selected those facts, theories and opinions that support their own views. They have omitted or oversimplified other facts, theories and opinions that do not support their views.

The booklet comes at a time when a committee of scientists appointed by the Surgeon General of the United States is conducting a review which,

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according to the Surgeon General, "will be concerned not only with tobacco but all other factors which may be involved." We hope the Surgeon General's committee will provide a thorough review of what is known and what is not known. This type of approach seems more appropriate than another booklet restating fixed positions.

Those of us who work with tobacco share with the millions who enjoy tobacco products a concern about questions relating to tobacco use and certain health problems, especially lung cancer.

We recognize that smoking is one of many factors being investigated by scientists throughout the world who are seeking to learn the causes of lung cancer. Many scientists believe that much more must be learned before it will be known whether any of the factors now under study has a role in causation and, if so, whether that role is direct or indirect, primary or incidental.

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