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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE: February 1, 1996

TO: Jennifer O'Connor, Assistant to the President

FIRM/COMPANY: The White House

FACSIMILE NO.: 202-456-2464

TELEPHONE NO.:

FROM: Raymond D. Cotton

SEC. EXT.:

COMMENTS: Re: Attached letter to Speaker Gingrich

Dear Jennifer: I was referred to you by Ms. Janet Abrams. She said you were in charge of the White House's anti-tobacco efforts.

In this regard, I wanted to alert you to the attached letter requesting Congressional hearings into the conduct of Brown & Williamson.

My client, the American College of Chest Physicians, would love to have the President's support for our request.

Thanks so much,



THIS FACSIMILE CONSISTS OF 2 PAGE(S) INCLUDING THE COVER PAGE. IF FOR ANY REASON THIS TRANSMISSION IS INCOMPLETE, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER ABOVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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CHEST 1996

The Sixty-Second Annual Scientific Assembly

and the

VIII World Congress on Diseases of the Chest

October 27 - October 31, 1996

San Francisco, CA

January 26, 1996

The Honorable Newt Gingrich
2828 Rayburn Office House Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard A. Gephardt
1226 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Gingrich and Minority Leader Gephardt:

An article was published on the front page of today's Wall Street Journal citing sworn testimony by Dr. Jeffrey S. Wigans, former Research director for the Brown and Williamson Tobacco Corporation, alleging that his former boss, Mr. Thomas E. Sandefur, former Chair of the Brown and Williamson Tobacco Corporation, lied under oath to Congress about his views on nicotine addiction. While we do not take a position on the accuracy or truthfulness of Dr. Wigans' allegations, we urge you to initiate an immediate Congressional investigation to determine the truth of this matter.

It seems to us when a Congressional Hearing is called and top corporate executives appear under oath as witnesses, they should and must be truthful in the statements they make to Congress. If this is an instance where that did not occur, our membership insists that the American public has the right to know.

So that there will be no misunderstanding about our position with regard to the issues under review by Congress, we again state for the record that we believe cigarettes and other tobacco products to be unquestionably addictive. The evidence of the addictive nature of nicotine dates back to the 1920's when the first links between smoking cigarettes and cancer were discovered. Then, in the 1950's and early 1960's, the first causal connections between smoking cigarettes and cancer were discovered. Later in the 1970's and 1980's, the addictive properties of nicotine were unmasked and the causal links to numerous cancers were reaffirmed and strengthened. The death rate increases every year.

Moreover, as physicians we know the great difficulties faced by our patients suffering from nicotine addiction. These difficulties can be measured in part by the number of deaths each year caused by smoking. Today, the numbers are even higher.

Accordingly, on behalf of our 16,000 physician members and on behalf of our hundreds of thousands of patients, and the American Public, we respectfully ask you to get to the bottom of these allegations. If we can be of assistance to you or any member of Congress on the scientific aspects of tobacco addiction and its negative health affects, we would be pleased to do so.

Sincerely yours,

Deborah Shure, MD, FCCP

President

cc: Congressman John E. Porter

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E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

01-Feb-1996 10:01am

TO: Jennifer M. O'Connor

FROM: Janet B. Abrams
 Office of the Vice President

SUBJECT: FYI

RE: Tobacco

Mr. Ray Cotton, who represents the American College of Chest Physicians, may phone you about the organization's request that Congressional hearings be held on the alleged lying by former Chairman of Brown & Williamson.

I know Ray from a former life on Capitol Hill. He's a lawyer/lobbyist.

FYI. Thx.