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INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

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file reports

To: Mr. James C. Bowling
From: Gina M. Gallovich *gmj*
Subject: Smoking is Good for You

Date: June 30, 1982

Dr. William T. Whitby, a retired general practitioner from Australia, has submitted an updated and enlarged version of his book, Smoking is Good for You, first published in 1978.

Overall, the facts and allegations Dr. Whitby states in the new version are basically the same as in his first edition. For example, he again sets forth all the reasons why he believes smoking is "good for you": provides relief to those suffering from bronchitis, results in a lower incidence of high blood pressure, keeps the heart healthy, relieves stress, and prevents obesity. (See memo attached.)

Dr. Whitby criticizes the virulence of antismokers, but he has become even more vociferous about them than he claims those "puritans" are about smokers. He states that some of the militant antismokers have signs of mental derangement and could well belong in mental hospitals. He describes the World Health Organization as "that most active body against smoking" and comments that it is to the left of the political spectrum and its members should not be surprised if they are called "Commies." Dr. Whitby also claims that there are "packs of antismoking thugs" attacking smokers in the streets, and their crusade has turned into a hate cult.

This latest edition, published in South Africa, also includes mentions of recent studies dealing with the smoking controversies, e.g. Hirayama, the Surgeon General's Report (1980), and White and Froeb. Dr. Whitby emphasizes the switch in tactics used by anti-smokers claiming that they have realized the "scare campaign" has failed and are now trying to make smoking antisocial.

As further proof of his belief that the smoking scare must be "one of the greatest hoaxes of all history," Dr. Whitby took out an ad in the Sydney Daily Telegraph offering \$10,000 to anyone who could prove that smoking "caused one case of lung cancer, heart disease or other bodily harm." He claims he had no takers for his offer.

cc: Ms. Joan Mebane

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