

Infant Deaths Linked To Cigarettes

WASHINGTON (AP) — New evidence linking cigarette smoking to stillbirths and newborn infant deaths was cited Wednesday in the seventh annual government report on smoking and health.

The 381-page document, which for the first time does not mention the surgeon general, suggests "the strong . . . association

between cigarette smoking and higher late fetal and infant mortality among smokers' infants."

The report said several recent studies have demonstrated a "statistically significant relationship between cigarette smoking and an elevated mortality risk among the infants of smokers" and that the risk increases pro-

portionately with the number of cigarettes smoked.

And, the report adds, "new evidence suggests that, if a woman gives up smoking by the fourth month of pregnancy she will have the same risk of incurring a fetal or neonatal loss as a nonsmoker."

Studies have shown that "the

fetus of a smoking mother may be directly exposed to agents such as carbon monoxide within tobacco smoke" at levels which produce stillbirth in animals, the report said.

Experiments with animals suggest that the mother's milk may contain nicotine and nitrosamines, the latter powerful carcinogens, which pass through to suckling young.

The offspring of smoking mothers are nearly twice as likely to have a low birth weight at delivery, the report said, but they grow faster the first six months because "a toxic influence" has been removed.

The report said clinical studies involving healthy, young men have shown that cigarette smoking impairs exercise performance "especially for many types of athletic events and activities involving maximal work capacity."

Pipe and cigar smokers experience death rates "slightly higher" than those of nonsmokers

but "substantially lower" than those of cigarette smokers, the report said.

The reason, it said, are that pipe and cigar smokers either do not inhale or do so infrequently or slightly.

In the first official study of the health hazards of smoking the relatively new little cigars, criticized by some as cigarettes in disguise, the report said "it is reasonable to conclude that smoking little cigars may result in health defects similar to those associated with smoking cigarettes if both are smoked in the same way."

Dr. Merlin K. DuVal, who recently resigned as assistant health secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, told Congress that new research confirms that cigarette smoking is a major cause of lung cancer and chronic bronchitis and contributes to chronic bronchopulmonary disease, cardiovascular disease and other ailments.



BASKETBALL MENTOR Shelby Metcalf and his assistant Jim Culpepper call one of several Aggie huddles during a come-from-behind victory game over Texas Lutheran's Bulldogs Wednesday night in G. Rollie White. A&M finished the game with 96 points to TLC's 77.

Batt News Summary

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—Black defendants have a constitutional right to question prospective jurors about possible racial prejudice, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously Wednesday.

The decision reversed the marijuana conviction of a bearded Negro civil rights worker in Florence County, S.C.

AUSTIN—Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby easily won his first test of power in the Texas Senate as senators voted 25-4 not to take away the lieutenant governor's authority to appoint committees.

The decision came after a two-hour debate on permanent Senate

rules that included half a dozen close votes on so-called "reform" proposals.

HOUSTON—Fire Chief C. R. Jake Cook was subpoenaed Wednesday by a Harris County grand jury investigating the Houston Fire Department.

Cook was ordered to produce records which the subpoena said were "removed from the files and not delivered" earlier.

WASHINGTON—Despite indications that a cease-fire may be near in Vietnam, plans for war protest activities during the presidential inauguration week-end continued to spread Wednesday.

Two more antiwar events have been scheduled — a march and symbolic signing of a peace treaty and an interfaith religious service called an "inauguration of conscience."

AUSTIN—A key item of House Speaker Price Daniel Jr.'s "reform" program met opposition in committee Wednesday as two members questioned the need for a one-term limit on Daniel and all future speakers.

Reps. Jim Vecchio, Dallas Democrat, and Ray Hutchinson, a Dallas Republican, both challenged the one-term limit bill at a hearing before the House Rules Committee.

The Battalion

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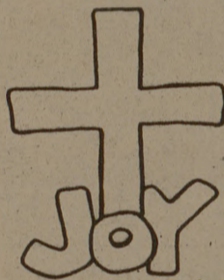
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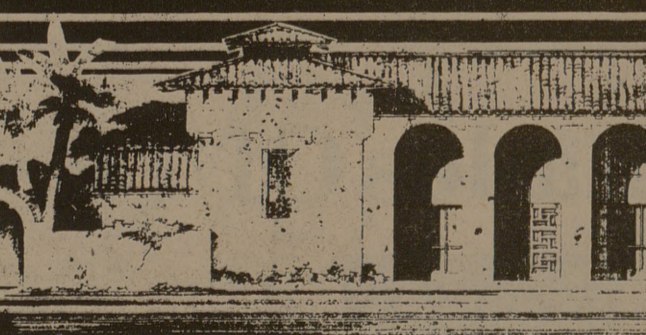
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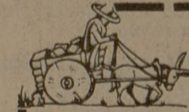
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