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AMA calls for ban on tobacco ads

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Setting a goal of a tobacco-free United States by the year 2000, the 271,000-member American Medical Association called on Tuesday for laws to ban all advertising and promotion of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco.

After passing the anti-advertising resolution, the association's policymaking House of Delegates also voted to press for a 21-year minimum age for buying tobacco products; for a ban on vending machine cigarette sales; and for required health warning labels on smokeless tobacco such as chewing tobacco and snuff.

Association officials acknowledged it would be difficult to get such proposals through Congress, especially in light of objections already raised concerning possible violation of free-speech rights.

But doctors contended in debate that tobacco and lung cancer are clearly linked, that tobacco advertising encourages Americans to use tobacco products and that the medical profession has a duty to try to do something about it.

"We expect a challenge; we're willing to fight it," said AMA general counsel Kirk Johnson at a post-vote news conference.

Asked for comment one day earlier, Anne Browder, of the Tobacco Institute, which represents the industry, said that a ban on print advertising would violate the industry's right of free speech and that such bans in other nations haven't worked anyway.

D.E. Ward of Lumberton in tobacco-rich North Carolina, the only doctor speaking against the proposal, said his state's delegation considered the action "inappropriate for the House of Delegates which in the past has championed constitutional freedoms."

He argued that manufacturers should be allowed to advertise legally produced tobacco products.

Attempts to persuade publishers to voluntarily stop advertising have had only modest success, the proposal said, estimating that U.S. cigarette advertisers spend \$2 billion a year on ads.

As for production legality, Dr. Robert McAfee, the South Portland, Maine, physician who presented the anti-advertising proposal, said that has "a very good question" that might be addressed "in the very near future."

Other doctors, however, said they did not foresee the association recommending an outright ban on smoking.

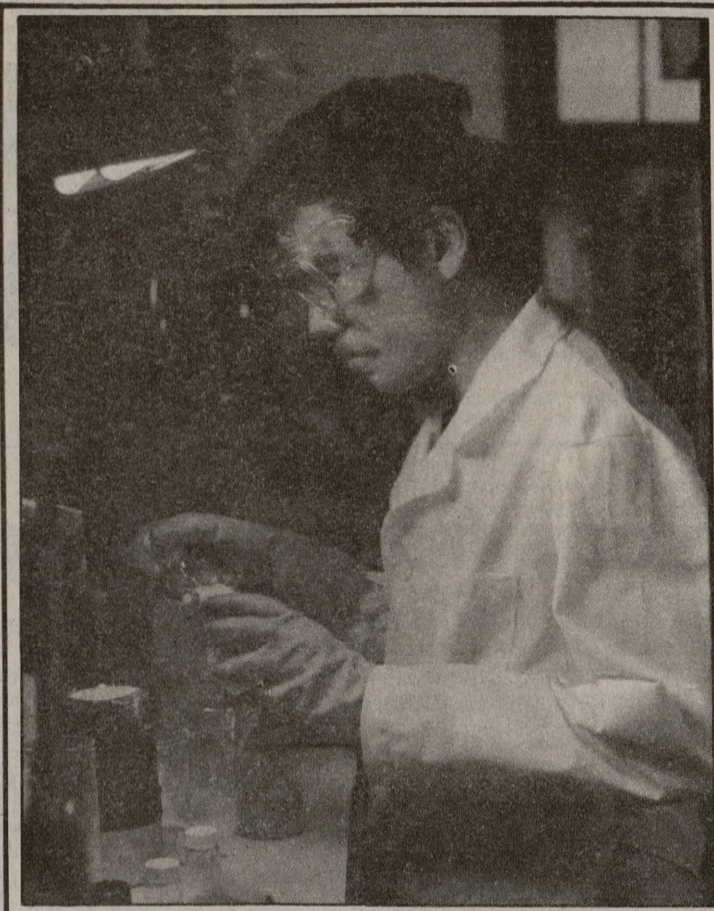


Photo by LEA HOOPER

Blinded By Science

David Treadwell, a Texas A&M graduate student in chemistry, finishes up the synthesis of "Trans"-Bis (Alkyl-Di-Phenol-Phosphine) Chloro-Bocarbonyl-Iridium (1), also known as a polymer-bound homogeneous catalyst. The catalyst speeds up reactions and can be separated readily from the product.

Combating AIDS

Federal health agencies to spend \$126 million on research, treatment

By SCOTT SUTHERLAND Staff Writer

Although doctors are optimistic that AIDS will not be the national epidemic it is feared to be, studies say that the bout with the disease will be long and costly.

"Right now one of the things we know about AIDS is that it will be very costly to fight this disease," said Dr. Ted Rea, a gastroenterologist in Bryan who has treated AIDS cases in the past.

Modern Medicine magazine says there are probably 1 million Americans who have been exposed to AIDS.

A spokesman for the Center for Disease Control says the country's four major health agencies — the

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; the Center for Disease Control; the Food and Drug Administration; and the National Institute of Health — will spend a combined \$126 million this year on AIDS research and treatment.

The majority of that money, \$70 million, will go to the National Institute of Health.

And that money will be spent fighting an epidemic that has grown rapidly since 1981 when the first case of AIDS was diagnosed in the United States.

Last week, the Center for Disease Control issued a weekly report stating there are now over 14,000 cases of AIDS in the country.

Homosexuals, intravenous drug users and hemophiliacs have the

Vote on tax bill could affect A&M pensions

By JENS B. KOEPKE Senior Staff Writer

The future of the Optional Retirement Program, which covers most Texas A&M University System faculty and administrators, will be decided by the outcome of tomorrow's vote in the U.S. House of Representatives on the comprehensive tax reform bill, System officials said.

Michael Lytle, special assistant to the chancellor for federal relations, said that the House Ways and Means Committee's proposed bill will subject the ORP to regulations from which it had been exempt in the past and that this could lead to its elimination.

John Honea, A&M System director for insurance and risk management, said that the bill added a non-discrimination clause to the tax code section that governs the ORP. The clause would make the ORP illegal because the program is available only to state university faculty and professional staff and not to other state employees. If the proposal becomes a law, the state would have two years to modify its retirement plans to meet the new standards. The ORP covers about 30,000 faculty and administrators at 95 state-supported institutions of higher education, he added.

The bill will be presented to the House tomorrow under "closed" rules which prohibit representatives from proposing amendments, Lytle said. House members will, however, be able to vote on an alternative Re-

A&M's faculty reacts to proposed reforms

By MARYBETH ROHSNER Staff Writer

The attempts by the U.S. House of Representative to generate revenue through tax reforms may result in the loss of retirement programs for many Texas A&M faculty members and administrators.

"(The legislators) are looking for every pigeonhole they can find to produce revenue," Faculty Senate Secretary Jerry Gaston said.

The "pigeonholes," to which he's referring, are provisions of the tax reform bill that could eliminate Texas Optional Retirement Program (ORP), if passed.

One Texas A&M University System official said that if the bill is made into law in its current form, Texas A&M and other state universities could suffer because it would eliminate the ORP.

John Honea, director of insurance and risk management at Texas A&M University System said the pension provisions could also force the state to place about 5,000 System faculty and professional administrators in a less practical retirement program, such as the Texas Teacher Retirement System (TRS).

Honea said the House's addition

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publican proposal which does not include restrictions that will affect the ORP, he said. The Republican proposal will be voted on first, and if it is rejected, the House will vote on the committee proposal. If the committee proposal passes, it will be sent to the Senate Finance Committee, which will begin writing its version of the tax bill in January.

Even if the committee proposal is passed, Lytle said, the A&M System will have more opportunities to lobby for changes in the pension sec-

tion. Lytle said he will work together with his counterpart in the University of Texas System to present their grievances to Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Tex., who sits on the Finance Committee.

A spokesman for Sen. Bentsen said the senator will not comment on the tax bill until the final version has been sent to the Senate and stressed that the senator will consider the effects of all the provisions of the bill.

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"People have to be aware that any single sexual encounter could result in the transmission of AIDS."

— Dr. Henry Masur, National Institute of Health.

highest chances of getting AIDS, but the total number of heterosexuals contracting the disease will get larger, says Chuck Fowless, a spokesman for Atlanta's Center for Disease Control.

"There will be more heterosexuals who will get AIDS," Fowless said, "but they won't be larger than 1 per-

cent of the total number of AIDS cases."

Even though the percentage of heterosexuals with AIDS won't increase, physicians are already warning heterosexuals to be aware of the prevalence of the disease.

In a letter in the Journal of the American Medical Association, Dr.

Neal Schram wrote that physicians should warn their patients that anyone that is not in a monogamous relationship is at some risk of acquiring AIDS.

And in the November issue of Modern Medicine Magazine, Dr. Henry Masur of the National Institute of Health put the AIDS threat in perspective.

"Both homosexual and heterosexual people have to look at it the same

way they look at syphilis or gonorrhea," Masur said. "They have to consider the risk."

"People have to be aware of the fact that any single sexual encounter could result in the transmission of AIDS."

But despite warnings by physicians, a recent Washington Post telephone poll revealed that few people are taking steps to avoid contracting AIDS.

Seventy seven percent of those polled said that they were not taking any special precautions to protect themselves from contracting AIDS. And 73 percent said that they were not afraid of getting AIDS.

\$10.5 billion Pennzoil award upheld

Associated Press

HOUSTON — A Texas judge on Tuesday accepted U.S. history's largest civil damage award, agreeing with a jury that Texaco should pay Pennzoil Co. \$10.53 billion for using unethical tactics to break up a merger between Pennzoil and Getty Oil Co.

Visiting State District Judge Solon Casseb Jr. upheld the award after lawyers and officials for both oil companies huddled more than three hours behind closed doors to work out an agreement that would keep the nation's third-largest oil company out of bankruptcy proceedings.

Casseb said in his order that with interest payments since Jan. 5, 1985, the total award to date will be \$11.12 billion.

He also said that during any appeal, the award would collect 10 percent interest from Tuesday until the award is paid.

Pennzoil attorney Joe Jamail said, "I was always confident that the judge would enter the judgment because of the evidence in the law."

Pennzoil chairman Hugh Liedtke, asked if he wanted to be chairman of Texaco, laughed, saying, "No, I would not. I think that's a hot seat at the moment."

Texaco Vice Chairman Alfred

"No, I would not (like to be chairman of Texaco). I think that's a hot seat at the moment."

— Pennzoil chairman Hugh Liedtke.

DeCrane walked out of the courtroom, barging through dozens of cameramen and reporters, and then paused long enough to say the company would appeal.

Texaco purchased Getty Oil Co. last year for \$10.1 billion, the second-largest merger in U.S. corporate history behind Chevron Corp.'s \$13.3 billion purchase of Gulf Corp.

But a jury ruled Nov. 19 that Texaco used unethical tactics to break up a previous merger agreement between Getty and Pennzoil.

Jurors recommended that Texaco pay \$7.53 billion in actual damages — the amount Pennzoil claims it suffered by losing access to 1 billion barrels of Getty Oil reserves — and another \$3 billion as punishment.

Texaco argued Pennzoil and Getty never had an ironclad deal and Texaco is being punished for simply taking advantage of a "good business opportunity."

Texaco contends the landmark judgment would damage the free-

enterprise system, leave 55,000 Texaco employees worldwide without jobs and signal the "total destruction and obliteration" of Texaco, even before it has a chance to appeal the case.

Casseb said Pennzoil would not be allowed to file any liens against Texaco property during an appeal or make any attempt to collect the award without the court's permission.

He also said Texaco and Getty Oil may not sell assets except those that would be sold during normal business, and Texaco would be prohibited from filing reorganization petitions under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

The judge said if Pennzoil violates its end of the agreement, Texaco would be granted a new trial. If Texaco violates its end of the agreement, Pennzoil would no longer be bound to uphold its end.

Texaco has 30 days to ask for a new trial. The judge has 30 days to rule on that request. If he rejects the

request, Texaco has 30 days to post a \$12 billion bond for an appeal, an amount company officials have said Texaco could not afford.

Jamail said Texaco is allowed to appeal the verdict without a bond but said that if the company did not post the \$12 billion bond, Pennzoil would be free to take assets. If Pennzoil did so and the case ultimately was reversed, he said Texaco then could sue Pennzoil for damages.

The judge's order said if Texaco files for bankruptcy, Pennzoil would be free to attach liens to Texaco assets.

Casseb summoned attorneys to court on Tuesday after hearing arguments in the case last week.

The judge opened the hearing by asking for any further statements. Texaco attorney David Boies said the two companies have been meeting over the past two days, apparently to delay entry of the final judgment.

Jamail immediately objected to Boies' statement, saying it was not the time to discuss the matter.

Casseb recessed the hearing to meet with the attorneys privately. Boies emerged from the hour-long session, saying that two proposals were being considered.

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Activists demonstrate against prize winners

Associated Press

OSLO, Norway — Two physicians — one American, the other Soviet — who helped found a doctors' anti-war group received this year's Nobel Peace Prize Tuesday as human rights demonstrators protested in the icy streets outside.

American cardiologist Bernard Lown and Soviet deputy health minister and heart specialist Yevgeny Chazov, accepted the award as co-founders of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

But demonstrators protested Chazov's presence because he participated in a 1973 political attack on Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1975.

Lown and Chazov were called together to receive the medal and a \$225,000 award which will go to their organization.

Soviet dissidents and hundreds of Sakharov supporters demonstrated, but it passed without incident.

The two doctors read separate acceptance speeches after being

summoned to receive the prize by Egil Aarvik, 73, a retired journalist and former government minister who now heads the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

The ambassadors of the United States, West Germany and Britain normally attend but were out of Norway Tuesday. Their absence was viewed as demonstrating unhappiness with the selection.

In a white-tie ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden Tuesday, five Americans, a West German and a Frenchman received Nobel Prizes in medicine, chemistry, economics, physics and literature.

The prize in medicine went to Americans Michael S. Brown, 44, and Joseph L. Goldstein, 45, for research into how the body handles cholesterol.

Americans Jerome Karle, 67, and Herbert H. Hauptman, 68, received the chemistry prize for developing methods of determining crystal structures.

And Naturalized American economist Franco Modigliani, born in Italy 67 years ago, received the economics prize, established in 1968 by Sweden's central bank.