

# 8 Poll finds public skeptical of proposed tobacco deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans are highly suspicious of the proposed tobacco deal, saying it won't even achieve a prime objective of lowering teen-age smoking unless cigarette prices rise much more than expected, according to an Associated Press poll.

More than half of those surveyed say the deal is not worth giving up the key concession that cigarette makers demand — banning class-action lawsuits. And two-thirds expect tobacco companies to sell as many cigarettes as ever.

Seventy percent say the price of a pack of cigarettes would have to rise by more than \$1 — much more than expected under the deal — to have much effect on teen smokers.

Congress and President Clinton begin grappling with the proposed deal next month, and such poll findings are bound to figure in the debate. "This reflects a huge amount of cynicism and skepticism about to-

bacco," said Massachusetts Attorney General Scott Harshbarger, who insists the public is missing the deal's good points.

"If it is left to the current, polarizing debate ... this is going to be a major problem. We will miss an opportunity that may not come again, and tobacco wins."

The findings present a dilemma for deal supporters, who would like to toughen some provisions but without going so far that tobacco companies back out. Yet, public distrust plays into deal opponents' hands.

Indeed, critics immediately seized on the findings.

"The American people have it right: They're not against a settlement, they're against a bad settlement," Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., said in a statement. "It's exactly this kind of public opposition to the deal that's going to force Congress to make significant changes."

The proposed deal would require state lawsuits against tobacco companies by setting new national liability. Companies would pay \$38 billion over 25 years to curb advertising and marketing at pay fines. If smoking doesn't significantly return, they won't pass-act. Bor and other legal provisions, pharma grants control over nicotine.

Clinton has said he will sue every state by including demand for full government nicotine regulation. The AP's telephone poll of 1,003 adults, conducted Aug. 24, found 58 percent of Americans support such regulation, including 54 percent of smokers.

An additional 54 percent of the deal isn't worth the associated lawsuit ban. But the poll would file such suits were evenly: 39.5 percent of the deal is worth that concession, 10 percent who said it was.

# Ron Brown's son pleads guilty

WASHINGTON (AP) — The son of the late Commerce Secretary Ron Brown pleaded guilty Thursday to a misdemeanor election-law violation, admitting he gave \$4,000 to friends to donate to a Senate campaign.

The admission by Michael A. Brown was part of a deal with the task force set up by the Justice Department to investigate campaign fund-raising abuses. It was the third plea obtained by the task force.

Brown, 32, admitted in federal court to giving an unlawfully excessive donation to the 1994 re-election campaign of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

Prosecutors agreed not to recommend any prison term for Brown, who could be sentenced to up to a year and fined as much as \$100,000. Sentencing was scheduled for Nov. 21.

As part of the deal, Brown agreed to cooperate with the Justice Department's investigation of fund-raising abuses and of Noland Hill, a former business partner of Ron Brown, prosecutor Raymond N. Hulser told reporters.

Hill's dealings with Ron Brown had been scrutinized by an independent counsel appointed to investigate the former commerce secretary. The Hill investigation was referred to the Justice Department last year after Ron

Brown and others on a U.S. trade mission died in a crash in Croatia.

Michael Brown, a Washington lawyer, admitted after donating the maximum \$2,000 that an individual donor can contribute to a candidate, he gave \$4,000 to his secretary and \$1,000 apiece to two friends and a firm so the money could be donated in their name to Kennedy's campaign.

Hulser said that the same day Brown and his wife made their contributions, Brown received \$5,000 from fund-raisers Nora and Gene Lum, who earlier this year pleaded guilty to felony charges of conspiring to help the Lums, who are awaiting sentencing next month.

The Lums, who are awaiting sentencing next month, admitted using Brown as a conduit for \$5,000 in \$50,000 in campaign donations through "straw donors" admitted using Brown as a conduit for \$5,000 in \$50,000 in laundered campaign contributions that admitted making, prosecutors said. Brown was an officer of their Oklahoma natural-gas pipeline company, Dynamic Energy Resources Inc.

The investigation was widened in February 1996 by The Associated Press reported that the Lums, Michael Brown and other officials of the Lums' company were reimbursed with corporate funds for political donations.

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AIR FORCE ONE (R) (M)	11:00 1:50 4:40 7:30 10:20
CONTACT (PG)	11:20 2:50 6:05 9:20 12:20
COPLAND (R)	11:50 2:20 4:55 7:25 10:05 12:35
DEF JAM: HOW TO BE A PLAYER (R)	2:45 7:50 12:50
EXCESS BAGGAGE (PG-13)	11:10 1:45 4:15 7:15 9:45 12:15
FACE/OFF (R)	3:55 9:30
G.I. JANE (R)	1:10 4:10 7:10 10:00 12:45
HOODLUM (R) (M)	12:00 3:15 6:30 9:45 12:45
LEAVE IT TO BEAVER (PG)	11:15 1:30 3:45 6:30 9:15 11:35
MASTERMINDS (R)	11:45 4:50 10:05
MEN IN BLACK (PG-13)	12:30 3:00 5:30 7:55 10:10 12:15
MIMIC (R)	12:10 2:35 5:15 8:00 10:25 12:50
MONEY TALKS (R)	12:50 3:05 5:20 7:40 9:55 12:05
MY BEST FRIENDS WEDDING (PG-13)	1:25 6:55 12:10
NOTHING TO LOSE (R)	12:35 3:00 5:25 7:50 10:15 12:25
PICTURE PERFECT (PG-13)	11:40 2:15 4:45 7:15 9:55 12:30
SPAWN (PG-13)	12:15 2:45 5:15 7:45 10:10 12:30


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