

cc: Jim Ramsey
at P.M.



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Dr. C. Everett Koop
Surgeon General of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20506

My Dear General Koop:

On May 13, 1988, I wrote you a letter questioning your judgement that cigarettes are as addictive as heroin or cocaine in their various forms and requested further explanation of your meaning of the word "addictive". Someone in your office (unfortunately I have lost the covering letter) sent me your report on nicotine addiction, being several pages on the subject. In this "Report" definitions of drug addiction are admitted to be "not identical" by various organizations but you state that they have in common "several criteria". You further state that "The central element among all forms of drug addiction is that the users behavior is largely controlled by a psychoactive substance (i.e., a substance that produces transient alterations in mood that are primarily mediated by effects in the brain)." This statement suggests that smoking a cigarette is about the same as smoking "crack". You also say that after cessation of drug use, there is a strong tendency to relapse. Come on, General, after smoking for 51 years I cannot remember when, after smoking a cigarette, I felt a relapse.

You also state "on the other hand, most smokers admit that they would like to quit, but have been unable to do so." I doubt very much if this is true and I defy you to give me any statistics that would support this contention.

I note that the only sources you quote in your Report are the World Health Organization and the American Psychiatric Association.

Yours very truly,

Chandler H. Kibbee

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