

(ISSUED TO WIRE SERVICE PEOPLE & NEWS MEDIA 1-11-71)

Horace R. Kornegay, President of the Tobacco Institute, issued the following statement at 12:20 p.m. January 11, 1971:

We are quite surprised that Dr. Steinfeld neglected to mention the 1970 report of the National Academy of Sciences which sharply contradicts his opinion.

The report said that "smoking is not significantly associated with excess fetal or neonatal mortality or the incidence of congenital malformation."

It is of interest to note, however, that the new Surgeon General's report will refer to studies reporting that although babies born to smoking mothers weigh 6.1 ounces less, on the average, they grow more rapidly in the first six months of life; that their survival rate is better than for low-weight babies born of nonsmoking mothers; and that smoking mothers have less incidence of toxemia of pregnancy.

TI09282090

(THE FOLLOWING READ TO THE NEWS MEDIA OVER THE PHONE 1-6-71)

The report is a revised edition of a document issued nine years ago by an anti-tobacco committee of the Royal College of Physicians.

It does not reflect any research on smoking and health by the Royal College.

In selecting and oversimplifying other research summaries, the committee has provided virtually no new information.

The purpose of the report obviously is to criticize the British government and to make a further attempt to influence the British government on the smoking question.

The report has no bearing whatever on the situation in the United States, where our government on two occasions has enacted legislation representing the "appropriate remedial action" recommended seven years ago by the advisory committee to the U. S. Surgeon General.