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Smoking And Health; What Report Means

The 10-member committee to probe the connection between smoking and health has made its anticipated report. It reviewed the findings of various study groups and researchers but did no research on its own. Its claim that smoking is a hazard to health is not a new one, but for the first time it links the idea with the U. S. Public Health Service and its authority to seek corrective measures.

A similar report in Great Britain two years ago caused a three per cent drop in smoking temporarily, and now the consumption of cigarettes is back up to previous levels. A habit that has been ingrained for 400 years will not be broken or drastically reduced overnight, no matter what group or agency tackles the problem.

The evidence should be examined in the light of conclusions. Further research is needed to ascertain if any harmful elements

in tobacco may be eliminated to make the habit safer in future. There may be a rise in filter cigarette sales as a result of the study. This would not be surprising if it did occur.

North Carolina is the major producer of tobacco. The eight billion dollar industry means at least three billion yearly in taxes of all kinds. That means North Carolina has a major stake in meeting this health and smoking charge with even more research and the teaching of moderation in cigarette usage.

Prohibition did not stop people from drinking. It did result in greater concern for moderation. If the committee's report on smoking achieves similar concern, its objective can be achieved much faster. Certainly the least that can be done is a personal evaluation by all smokers and non-smokers to encourage greater moderation in all tobacco usage.

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Puff Paucity

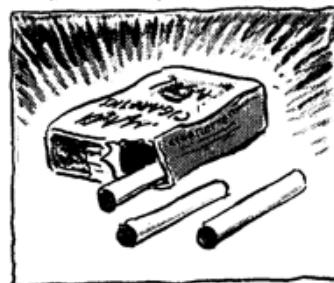
We find provocative the elaborate preparations being made for release of the long-awaited government report on smoking and health.

Most provocative of all is the fact that reporters will be locked up in the State Department auditorium for two-and-a-half hours before they are let out to file stories on the report's content.

We recall from attendance at State Department briefs in the same auditorium that smoking is not allowed inside. We know, too, from acquaintance with many journalists that a cigaret is nearly as much an instrument of their work as a typewriter.

We are afraid if they lock those fellows up for two-and-a-half hours without a puff, they will have ample immediate evidence that there is a very definite relationship between smoking and health.

The phenomenon is popularly called, we believe, "nicotine fit."



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