

PHILIP MORRIS COMPANIES INC. INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
1341 G STREET, N.W., SUITE 900, WASHINGTON, DC 20005

To: Distribution

Date: May 19, 1998

From: Greg Scott 

Subject: May 18th Lugar/McConnell Press Conference

Attached is the material that was distributed at yesterday afternoon's press conference at which Sen. McConnell joined Sen. Lugar in supporting an amendment to the McCain bill that would terminate the tobacco program, provide transition payments to growers, and economic assistance over 5 years for those communities hit hardest by the loss of tobacco income.

During Senate debate on the McCain bill which commenced yesterday evening on the Senate floor, Majority Leader Trent Lott inserted the Lugar/McConnell grower provisions into the McCain substitute bill. The Ford/Hollings "LEAF ACT" provisions remain in the bill as well.

While there remains some confusion over the results of the procedural move by Lott to insert the Lugar/McConnell provisions into the manager's amendment (McCain bill, as modified), it places both the Lugar/McConnell provision and the Ford/Hollings grower provisions on the same footing, requiring a simple majority vote rather than attempting to overcome a future point of order against the LEAF ACT to substitute the Lugar/McConnell provisions.

Senators Ford and Hollings are furious over this procedural move by Lott, setting up a floor debate over the bill that will be much more contentious and partisan. As a result, Hollings and Ford have committed to obstructing future floor debate on the bill.

cc: M. Goldberg
H. Liebengood
D. Milby
D. Nicoli
S. Parrish
B. Riggan
L. Sykes
M. Szymanczyk

P. Fraas, Tuttle, Taylor & Heron

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