

Tobacco Companies Give A.M.A. \$10 Million for Smoking Study

TIMES' own story.

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Special to The New York Times

CHICAGO, Feb. 7 — The American Medical Association, through its Education and Research Foundation, announced today that it had accepted \$10 million from six tobacco companies to underwrite "basic research on the relationship of smoking to disease."

The companies, which will provide the money over five years, are the American Tobacco Company, Brown and Williamson Tobacco Corporation, Liggett and Meyers Tobacco Company, P. Lorillard Company, Philip Morris, Inc., and R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company.

The presidents of the six companies signed a letter explaining they had offered the money "in the hope and expectation that the research project proposed will aid materially in finding solutions to public health problems of national and international concern."

The A.M.A. announcement did not use the word "cancer" or mention the Surgeon General's report, which said that smoking was a "health hazard" and contributed to lung cancer and other diseases.

No Condemnation Yet

The House of Delegates, the policy-making arm of the medical association, has never made a blanket condemnation of smoking. But it has noted "the effects on the young of toxic materials, including tobacco, and urged that "these facts" be made known.

The Education and Research Foundation has planned a "long range" research program on smoking. It was to this that the \$10 million was given.

Dr. Raymond McKeown, president of the foundation, said its directors were "pleased to accept the generous offer" because it was without strings. The directors are elected from the ranks of the A.M.A. trustees.

The foundation will use the annual tobacco company installments to make grants to research scientists. It will not conduct research itself.

Dr. McKeown said the scientists would try to find out through fundamental scientific laboratory and clinical research how tobacco smoke affected the human body.

The A.M.A. said the House of Delegates had "authorized the foundation to solicit tobacco research project funds from industry, foundations, voluntary health agencies and other sources," provided there were no stipulations attached to the money.

A five-member committee to

direct the foundation's research on smoking is headed by Dr. Maurice H. Seevers, chairman of the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Chicago Medical School.

He and two other members of the committee were members of the Surgeon General's Advisory Committee on Smoking and Health.

The original foundation project was authorized last December with a \$500,000 budget.

The tobacco industry for several years has supported the work of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee, which has a budget of \$1 million a year. This committee makes grants for specific research projects.

The A. M. A. Education and Research Foundation was set up in 1962 to combine the work of two existing foundations.

In their letter the tobacco companies said:

"The undersigned companies understand that pursuant to action taken by the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association at its meeting last December, the American Medical Association Education and Research Foundation is to undertake a comprehensive program of research on tobacco and health, devoted primarily to determining which significant human ailments may be caused or aggravated by smoking, how they may be caused, the particular element or elements in smoke that may be the casual or aggravating agents and methods for the elimination of such agents."

"It is the further understanding of the undersigned companies that the project is to be conducted effectively, exhaustively and with complete objectivity by a director having the requisite experience, qualification and integrity.

"The announcement of the project indicated that it would be financed by a substantial contribution from the American Medical Association and that contributions would be solicited from other sources, with the understanding that contributions would be accepted only if given without restrictions.

"In the hope and expectation that the research project proposed will aid materially in finding solutions to public health problems of national and international concern, the undersigned companies are willing to contribute to the American Medical Association Education and Research Foundation for use in financing the research project during the period 1964 through 1968 a total of \$10 million."

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