

NEWS-CALL BULLETIN
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AMA Filters Its Stand On Cigaretts and Bias

By George Dusheck

The American Medical Association has taken a semi-firm stand on the role of cigaret smoking in lung cancer and other diseases.

On racial discrimination, also, the AMA House of Delegates Wednesday adopted a policy not firm enough to be called vigorous and not soft enough to be called evasive.

Both policies fell short of the stands urged by California's delegation to the 113th annual AMA convention, meeting here this week.

FOR EXAMPLE, California urged the AMA to recognize there "is a close relationship between smoking, especially excessive cigaret smoking, and certain diseases including cancer of the lung" and to "commend Luther Terry, surgeon general of the United States Health Service and his committee for their extensive and objective study of the matter."

The language finally approved by the AMA delegates said the AMA "does recognize a significant relationship between cigaret smoking and the incidence of lung cancer..." and "recognizes the contribution of the surgeon general's committee in its comprehensive report."

This is not the clear, suc-

Surprise Vote Picks Dr. Ward

Dr. Donovan F. Ward of Dubuque, Iowa, today was named president-elect of the American Medical Association in a surprise move.

Dr. Raymond M. McKeown of Coos Bay, Ore., had been considered an overwhelming favorite.

inct and vigorous stand many doctors had called for, including San Francisco's Dr. John Cline, a former AMA president.

SAID DR. CLINE Wednesday before the committee considering the cigaret issue:

"The evidence is so clear it cannot be denied. We have no choice. We must take a strong stand now."

Nevertheless, Dr. Cline said he is satisfied with the compromise resolution:

"We are on the record as clearly acknowledging that cigaret smoking causes lung cancer," he said. "I could wish the statement were shorter and more direct, but it says what I wanted it to say."

THE AMA delegates Wednesday rejected a Call-

ifornia resolution that warned that the public has misgivings about the acceptance of \$10 million by the AMA from six major tobacco companies for research.

This, said the California delegation, "raises certain questions about the propriety of such an action in view of current recognition of... the harmful effects of cigaret smoking..."

Instead, the compromise resolution said the AMA takes "great pride in the establishment of the research program..."

Similarly, on racial discrimination, the AMA rejected a California proposal that a nationwide survey of discrimination suffered by Negro physicians be undertaken, as well as a Wisconsin proposal that state and county societies which bar Negroes or give them second-class membership be thrown out of the American Medical Association.

THE DELEGATES did resolve that they are "inalterably opposed to denial of membership, privileges, and responsibilities in county medical societies and state medical associations to any duly licensed physician because of race, color, religion, ethnic affiliation or national origin."

California's Dr. Samuel R. Sherman said this "meets the desire of California for a forthright and clear stand against discrimination."

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