

tobacco in foreign smuggling operations drawing on internal company documents recently made public.

The British House of Commons, the equivalent of our House of Representatives, has recommended that the British government launch a formal investigation into the allegations. One set of documents highlighted by English anti-smoking groups they say indicates that the company went out of its way to bill market share by encouraging smuggling.

Those pages, culled from vast archives, suggest that the company was aware of just how many of its own cigarettes were being smuggled. The 1993 through 1997 marketing plan for one of BAT's key subsidiaries included projected profits from what are called "general trade" cigarettes. These are cigarettes where taxes are not paid on them.

The document describes plans to "grow our business" in "general trade" countries, including China and Vietnam where most foreign-made cigarettes are illegal.

Anti-smoking activists say that general trade is industry jargon for smuggled cigarettes. Another BAT document they focus on suggests that the company closely monitored the smuggling of its brands. Records show it tracking how cigarettes entered Vietnam "from sailors, 40 percent; from fisherman, 25 percent; from smuggling by sea, 35 percent."

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Thompson was the first to go to jail, but given all the heavy guns trained on the industry, I doubt that he will be the last.

I would ask this of my colleagues, especially my colleagues and the chairman of the Committee on Commerce on which I sit, we have ample evidence that the tobacco companies have been smuggling cigarettes and breaking the law. It is time for the oversight committee of the Committee on Commerce to hold a full-scale investigation into this corrupt practice, another example of how tobacco companies have not really shot straight with the American public.

Mr. Speaker, I have talked briefly tonight about patient protection legislation, something we need to get done before we recess, a piece of legislation modeled after what passed the House. Neither the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), nor I who wrote the bill that passed with 275 votes have ever said that it has to be every word our way or the highway. We have never said that. We have always said that we would be willing to sit down and try to achieve a compromise.

Unfortunately, the Speaker of this House decided not to appoint to the conference committee the two Republicans, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) and myself, who wrote the bill that passed this House with 275

votes, thus precluding our efforts to try to achieve a compromise to get a strong piece of legislation passed. But we are still available, and we are still working.

I actually am optimistic about the chances of getting true patient protection legislation passed because, as I look at the vote in the Senate, I think we now have 50 supporters plus for the bill that passed this House. I expect that, when that bill comes up again in the Senate after the August recess, we very well may see that the bill that passed the House with 275 votes also passes the Senate, and I am sure the President will sign that.

On the matter of tobacco, I see very little movement in the House even though the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and I have 95 cosponsors for a bill that would simply allow the FDA the authority to regulate an addicting substance, as I said, not to increase taxes and not to prohibit the substance, but to make sure that those tobacco companies which have marketed and targeted kids 14 and younger cannot get away with that in the future.

Well, I remain optimistic that, as we continue to work on these issues, we will make progress. I sincerely thank all of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who have shown so much interest in actually achieving true and real reform legislation in both of these areas.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4865, SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2000

Mr. DREIER (during the Special Order of Mr. GANSKE), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-795) on the resolution (H. Res. 564) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4865) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 1993 income tax increase on Social Security benefits, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. REYNOLDS) at 11 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute for the purpose of explaining the schedule for the rest of the evening and tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it is our intention to have the House recess until 7 a.m. tomorrow, at which time we hope to file H.R. 4516, the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill conference report. Then, the Committee on Rules hopes to meet at 8:30 a.m., at which time we will consider the rules on both the Legislative Branch conference report for H.R. 4516; the adjournment resolution; and the Child Support Distribution Act, H.R. 4678. At that time, the House, after the filing of those rules, would adjourn, and the House would then convene at 10 a.m. tomorrow and we would consider the bills that I have just mentioned, the 3 measures that I have just mentioned, as well as continue work on the District of Columbia Appropriations bill and H.R. 4865, the Social Security Benefits Tax Relief Act.

Mr. Speaker, that is our intention at this point.

RECESS

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House recess until 7 a.m. tomorrow, July 27, 2000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 7 a.m. tomorrow, July 27, 2000.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 7 a.m. on Thursday, July 27, 2000.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

9375. A letter from the Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Food Stamp Program: Recipient Claim Establishment and Collection Standards (RIN 0584-AB88) received July 24, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9376. A letter from the Small Business Advocacy Chair, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Imidacloprid; Extension of Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-301023; FRL-6597-1] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received July 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9377. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the request and availability of appropriations for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance