

Excise tax would finance no net cost tobacco fund

WASHINGTON — Rep. Charles Rose, D-N.C., Chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Tobacco and Peanuts, announced he has introduced a bill to create a cigarette excise tax to finance the government No Net Cost tobacco support program. The tax would replace a system of fees paid by farmers which are currently used to ensure that the program will be cost-free for taxpayers.

Rose made his announcement at a joint news conference with Sen. Albert Gore, D-Tenn., who is introducing the same legislation in the Senate. Eighteen House members have already cosponsored the measure.

"This appears to be the best long-range solution to the problems—particularly the increasing imports which have been flooding into our cigarette industry—that currently face the

tobacco program," Rose said. But Rose added he would support any alternate proposals from the Senate "if I feel that they have worked out a solution that can pass both Houses of Congress."

"The legislation we are introducing has been made necessary by the escalating rate of imports by cigarette companies. This bill ensures that the tobacco companies will bear part of the

burden of the tobacco program without assuming any of the responsibility of making it work," Rose said.

Rose noted that Fred Bond, who heads the Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corp., the cooperative which handles price support operations for Flue-Cured tobacco, has been trying for months to negotiate solutions to the growing cost of the program between his agency, the Agriculture Department and tobacco companies. "But now time has run out," Rose said.

Under the proposed bill, a special Tobacco Equalization Fund would be set up in the Treasury. Its funds would come from an excise tax on cigarettes and would be used to pay costs of the tobacco support program. The Secretary of the Treasury would set the specific tax rate, and could increase it in the future if a continuing buildup in imports boosted program costs by forcing more domestic tobacco into the support program. Alternatively, the tax could go down if cigarette com-

panies buy less imported tobacco and more from American growers.

No Net Cost assessments paid by farmers in the past will remain with the government and go into the Tobacco Equalization Fund, but growers would not pay any future assessments.

Rose said new excise taxes might lead to a decline in cigarette sales, but tobacco sales by American growers could increase if the new levy induced cigarette companies to shift from foreign to domestic leaf.

Cosponsors of the House version of the Rose bill include Reps. Charles Hatcher, D-Ga., Lindsay Thomas, D-Ga., Charles Stenholm, D-Tex., Glenn English, D-Okla., Norman Sisisky, D-Va., Carl C. Perkins, D-Ky., Frederick Boucher, D-Va., Jim Cooper, D-Tenn., Mike Lowry, D-Wash., Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., Thomas Hartnett, R-S.C., Edolphus Towns, D-N.Y., Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., Bob Edgar, D-Pa., Berkley Bedell, D-Iowa, Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., John Spratt, Jr., D-S.C., and Butler Derrick, D-S.C. (r85/061).

Dr. Maretzki joins staff at Penn State extension

UNIVERSITY PARK — Dr. Audrey N. Maretzki has been appointed professor of food science at The Pennsylvania State University and assistant director of family living programs for Penn State's Cooperative Extension Service. She came to Penn State from the University of Hawaii where she was Extension food and nutrition specialist.

Announcing the appointment, Dr. Wayne W. Hinrich, acting dean of the College of Agriculture, said "Dr. Maretzki's background in statewide nutrition programming and her research in nutrition education will help us meet the increasing demand for family living and nutrition programs. She is a graduate of Penn State and knows the issues important to Pennsylvania."

Maretzki is responsible for extension program planning and evaluation in Extension family

living programs. This area includes family strengths, family resource management, housing, aging, crafts development and marketing, clothing and textiles, food and nutrition, consumer education and home food preservation. She is also responsible for administering the Expanded Foods and Nutrition Education program (EFNEP).

We will be looking at what our programs should be doing and focusing on what we do best," commented Dr. Maretzki. "One of my priorities will be to increase the awareness of family living programs throughout the state. "Extension will be strengthening its research base to support these programs and we will work to increase the professionalism of our staff," she continued.

Maretzki plans to explore opportunities to develop new programs for EFNEP and to seek

new sources of funding "EFNEP provides a critical service to our urban and rural clientele. It is designed to help low income families make the best use of their food dollars and to help them learn the importance of planning nutritionally balanced meals for their families."



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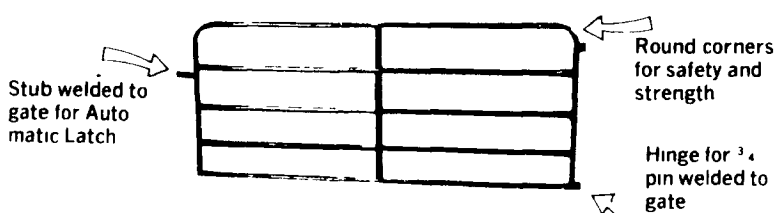
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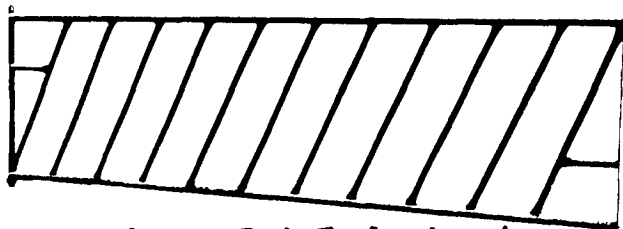
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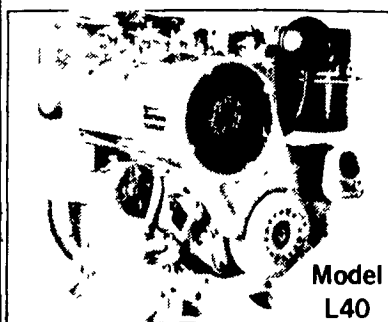
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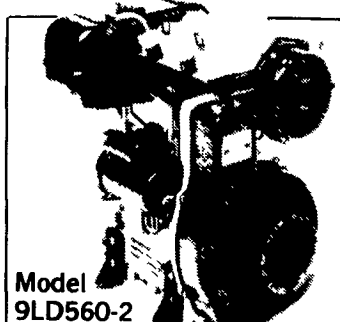


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