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**CIGARETTES**

## Stiffer EDITORIAL Warnings on smokes

A law mandating new and stronger health warnings on cigarette packages has just been enacted by Congress.

Warnings will be stronger than the current one, which says the U.S. surgeon general has determined that cigarette smoking can be dangerous to health.

Four new labels, to be used quarterly on a rotating basis, state explicitly that smoking causes a variety of ailments, including lung cancer, heart disease, and emphysema. They say smoking may cause pregnancy complications and damage to unborn babies. They also state that quitting smoking would reduce serious risks to health.

While the warnings are entirely appropriate, how much good they will do is debatable. Probably more smokers or potential smokers are deterred away from cigarettes by the publicity about the labels than by the labels themselves.

A bill of the House of Representatives would require cigarette companies to place a picture of a skull and crossbones on the cigarette packs. The bill also requires that the picture be placed on the cigarette packs. The bill also requires that the picture be placed on the cigarette packs. The bill also requires that the picture be placed on the cigarette packs.

The effect of tobacco-stamp politicians remains considerable. Even as the House was voting the new cigarette package warnings, the White House was ordering the International Trade Commission to launch an investigation to see how much tobacco imports are needed to satisfy the home-grown crop. There is no indication the cigarette health hazards of smoking will stop Congress from continuing to subsidize tobacco farmers.

Still, it is encouraging that the government has enough courage to tell people that smoking can kill them. A drop in the percentage of people who smoke indicates the message is having some effect, whether or not the small print on cigarette packages is being read.

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