

IV Miscellaneous statements and quotes in support of dialogue and new thinking

What is being proposed in the establishment of an independent Center/ Forum as a means of convening people with differing views to discuss and debate issues in a safe environment is not something that is so new or so unique as to be discriminately ignored. In fact there is clearly a trend for this type of endeavor to help us through the many complex issues and challenges we are now facing as a society and as a nation. What follows are a few (of what are many) quotes that support what is being proposed as being worthy of serious consideration.

- ***Some men see things as they are and ask “Why?” I dream of things that never were and ask, “Why not?”.***

Robert F. Kennedy

- ***The monopoly on good ideas does not belong to a single party. If it is a good idea, we will consider it.***

President-elect Barak Obama, **Washington Post**, January 6, 2009

- ***..... the Commission, a collection of tobacco growers, representatives of public health organizations and economic experts, found much common ground in the seemingly incompatible goals of assisting tobacco farmers and safeguarding public health. The starting point goes back 15 years when tobacco growers and public health leaders first gathered in the mid-1980's for face-to-face discussions about the plight of tobacco farmers and their communities and the need to protect public health. With this report those years of effort have come to fruition.***

Presidential tobacco commission report, Tobacco at a Crossroad, May 2001, Executive summery p.4

- ***The success of the meeting was largely due to the willingness of the parties to put aside official titles and deal with each other as individuals. I was personally***

moved by the genuineness of the spirit of cooperation. Our experience at Calloway Gardens will be an experience long remembered by all of us.

Former President Jimmy Carter in a letter (September 20, 1985) to participants of a meeting (retreat) of public health advocates, growers, and selected others at Calloway Gardens, sponsored by the Carter Center.

- ***It is never easy for warriors to transfer themselves into peacemakers, to shirk from the comfort of combating a securely demonized enemy to the moral ambiguity involved in acknowledging an enemy as simultaneously a bargaining partner...But the accumulating pressures on the industry in 1997 –especially from its own investors-created an opportunity different in kind and dimension from anything that had come before. Yet ...many others were (not) capable of stepping back and asking themselves whether a time had indeed come to suspend the fighting – not end it forever- and negotiate.***

Michael Pertchuk, Smoke in Their Eyes: Lessons Movement Leadership from the Tobacco Wars, page 256.

- ***I hold that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical.***

Thomas Jefferson, in a letter to James Madison, January 30, 1787

- ***Clearly, our tobacco companies, together with the rest of the industry, played a major role in the development of the level of anger that is now directed against them-not just by many in the public health community but many in the general public as well. Put simply, ours was a culture of arrogance, bred insularity and enabled by spectacular business success. There was a bunker mentality, an “us-against-them” attitude, a belief that any one who disagreed with us was an enemy out to destroy us.***

Steven C. Parrish, (formerly a senior executive at Altria Corporation)
“Bridging the Divide: A Shared Interest in a Coherent National Tobacco Policy”, Yale Journal of Health Policy, Law and Ethics.

- ***The remarkable dialogue that has taken place over the last several months has opened up new opportunities for partnership and for meaningful change that will benefit both sides. We in public health will have the grower’s support and assistance in reducing youth tobacco addiction, and farmers and their communities will have new options and opportunities for the future... Now the***

growers, in dialogue with public health advocates have come to accept the role of FDA with respect to agricultural production.

Press Statement of Bill Novelli, former President, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, concerning the release of the Core Principles Statement Between the Public Health Community and the Tobacco Producers Community, March 1998

- ***Today is truly a historic day for the tobacco farmer, the tobacco farmer community and the public health community. Two entities that have long viewed each other as adversaries have come together after many months of civil dialogue with a plan to enhance the public health of this nation and at the same time develop a plan to take the tobacco farmer and the tobacco farm communities into the 21st century and to sustain a healthy economy. Direct, face-to-face discussion invariably results in new more accurate understandings.***

Statement of JT Davis, Concerned Friends for Tobacco, concerning the issuance of the Core Principles Statement Between the Public Health Community and the Tobacco Producers Community, March 1998

- ***Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less traveled. And that has made all the difference***

Robert Frost

- ***Even from a foe a man may wisdom learn.***

Aristophanes, The Birds

- ***If I always do what I have always done, I'll always get what I already got.***

Anonymous

- ***Love your enemies for they tell you your faults.***

Benjamin Franklin, Poor Richard

- ***If you meet a sectary, or hostile partisan, never recognize the dividing lines but meet on what common ground remains, -- if only that the sun shines, and the rain rains for both, the area will widen very fast, and ere you know it the boundary mountains, on which the eye has fastened, have melted into air.***

Ralph Waldo Emerson