THE CLEAN AIR CLARION

NEWSLETTER OF THE NON-SMOKERS' MOVEMENT OF AUSTRALIA

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● THE battle lines are drawn. Australian non-smokers, alarmed by reports that sidestream smoke in offices can cause nausea, headaches, respiratory and heart problems, are finally taking positive action.
● They have been encouraged to an increased militancy by recent events, both here and in the US.
● ALISON STEWART reports:

THE SMOKE OF BATTLE OVER SMOKING

Last month, San Francisco's mayor, Dianne Feinstein, signed the toughest anti-smoking law in the US, one that is expected to set a strong precedent.

Under the law, offices must have separate areas for smokers and non-smokers and smoking can be prohibited completely if non-smokers are unhappy with the arrangement. Employers risk up to $500 a day for non-compliance.

● Earlier this month, Canberra public servant Roy Bishop, a surveyor at the Department of Administrative Services, was awarded $11,000 compensation on top of a 1982 award of $8,000 for nausea and sore eyes caused by office cigarette smoke.

● Companies in the US that have recently banned or restricted smoking in the workplace include Du Pont, Hewlett Packard, IBM, The Wall Street Journal, Xerox, Campbell's Soups, New York Bell Telephones, State offices in New Jersey, Maine, Wisconsin and California and the US Department of Health.

● In Australia, the NSW Cancer Council has banned smoking in its offices, and in May smoking in NSW passenger lifts was banned under the NSW Construction and Safety Act.

● Finally, Australia's Non-Smokers Rights' Movement is pinning its hopes for smoke-free workplaces on the new NSW Occupational Health and Safety Act, which imposes an absolute duty on employers to provide a healthy working environment.

The office abstainers say they have the law on their side

● LEFT: Brian McBride, president of the Non-Smokers movement ... "a smoke-free public service before long".

These are the banner headlines over a full page article in the Sun-Herald on 17 July 1983 following the second award of $11,000 compensation to Roy Bishop for ill health forcing him out of his cigarette smoke polluted office. The Channel 2 T.V. program "Nationwide" featured interviews with three members of the Non-Smokers' Movement on 11 July regarding action being taken against smoke pollution in the workplace.

SURPRISE US! BY ATTENDING THE ANNUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER - SEE BACK PAGE!

THE SMOKE OF BATTLE OVER SMOKING

'ROY BISHOP explained that after his initial $8,000 workers' compensation award last year his employer, the Department of Administrative Services, did nothing about the cigarette smoke pollution in his office in spite of having a Public Service Board instruction that the rights of non-smokers must be respected. When his second claim became apparent they took the incredible action of placing him in a junk-room in the basement of the building rather than fixing the problem at its source, namely eliminating the smoke from his office. The Movement has sent telexes to the Minister for Administrative Services, Mr. John Brown, and the Prime Minister, protesting at this shoddy treatment and demanding that smoking be totally banned in public service offices because the government seems to be incapable of implementing the three year old policy providing for segregation of smokers.

'ADRIAN GATTENHOF is seeking relief from similar smoke pollution in his New South Wales State Government office. He sees some real hope under the provisions of the new Occupational Health and Safety Act which recently became law in New South Wales. He pointed out that past acceptance of smoking has made non-smokers feel that there was something wrong with them simply because they demanded clean air in the office. This is a totally unacceptable proposition and action must be taken to correct the position.

'BRIAN McBRIDE reported several other cases of employees in the private sector who were suffering at work because their employees brushed their complaints aside as if smoke pollution had to be accepted as a "normal condition" in any office. He has sent telexes to the Acting New South Wales Premier, Mr. Jack Ferguson, and to the Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr. Pat Hills, asking what protection the new Act would give to two female clerks who were branded troublemakers by their employers for presenting medical certificates proving that their ill-health was caused by cigarette smoke.

After the media coverage of the past few weeks a number of other workers have contacted the Movement for advice on what steps to take about smoke pollution in their workplaces. Hence we have prepared the following advice on what you should do. Members should pass this on to anyone they know who has this problem at work and put such people in contact with us. We will give free advice and legal support, if necessary, in pursuit of this important campaign to force the total segregation of smokers in Australian workplaces. (see next page)

NON-SMOKERS' MOVEMENT ACCEPTS TOBACCO SPONSORSHIP!!

Could this be a Clarion headline of the future? Far fetched? Well, our finances are in need of a big injection of funds to carry us through the heavy costs of our recent campaigns. We have won in buses, taxis, lifts and we will press on with workplaces, airlines, charter coaches and then into restaurants and other public areas. However you must keep the money rolling in or we cannot continue this important work. SEPTEMBER RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE and we urge all members to renew subscriptions promptly so we can continue the fight. DONATIONS as well as subscriptions are very welcome.

VOLUNTARY TYPING

Any members or supporters in the Sydney area who could help with occasional, good quality typing on a voluntary basis are urged to contact John on 6651081 (A.H) We would particularly like to hear from anyone in the city, Bondi, Coogee, Clovelly, Kensington or Greystanes area.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT SMOKE POLLUTION IN YOUR WORKPLACE

STEP 1 Document the facts on your working environment. Make a sketch of your work area noting the location of smokers, non-smokers and air conditioning inlet/outlet vents, etc. Record any known problems with your air conditioning such as frequent breakdowns, lack of proper maintenance, previous complaints by staff, etc.

STEP 2 Record impact on your own health. Note time and date of any symptoms, sore eyes, headache, dry throat, nausea, etc. Relate these to the extent of smoking in the area around that time. Report to your medical centre and have them record your symptoms as often as they occur. Include in your complaint the general offensiveness of the stink and contamination which affects your work concentration.

STEP 3 Write to us with details of events so far and we will send you medical and other references to take along to your own doctor. We will also give you additional advice which might apply in your particular case.

STEP 4 Ask your own doctor to provide you with a certificate to state that your health is adversely affected by cigarette smoke and that you should work in smoke-free conditions. Even if the symptoms are minor, point out to your doctor that you are aware that smoke exposure is a risk factor and could lead to bigger health problems in the future as documented in the research literature.

STEP 5 Join a union if there is one appropriate for your work. Make a written request to the union to support you in your quest for healthy working conditions. Ask for a written reply indicating union policy on the issue.

STEP 6 Advise your employer in writing that your health is at risk because of the dangerous chemicals present in the tobacco smoke contaminating your work area. Point out that this is in breach of the "Occupational Health and Safety Act" which became effective on 21 April 1983.

STEP 7 Advise other non-smoking employees of what you are doing and ask them to take similar steps. If you can form a sizable group all pressing for smoke-free areas you have the battle half won.

Keep the Non-Smokers' Movement advised at all stages and we will also make contact with your union and your employer if you request such action.

GOING UP ! CLEAN AIR BETWEEN FLOORS

A number of people have requested more specific information on the banning of smoking in lifts.
A new set of regulations were made under the Construction Safety Act, 1912, (1982 - No. 489). The relevant clauses are 70.(2) "There shall be prominently displayed in the car of a passenger lift (other than a lift being used in a single-unit dwelling house) a legible notice bearing the words' NO SMOKING - MAXIMUM PENALTY $20' in letters not less than 25mm (1") in height" and clause 72 (1) A person shall not - (a) smoke any substance or any cigar,cigarette, pipe or other smoking implement; or (b) carry a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or other lighted smoking implement, in the car of a passenger lift, other than a passenger lift used in a single-unit dwelling house (2) A person who commits a breach of paragraph (1) shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding $20."

The regulations are administered by the Department of Industrial Relations, 1 Oxford Street,Darlinghurst. Phone 2668111 and ask for Industrial Relations, Lifts section.

PROGRESS IN AMERICA

As many may already be aware San Francisco now has progressive legislation to protect non-smokers in the workplace. The law provides that if the employer cannot satisfy the non-smokers 'need for reasonably smoke-free air, then smoking in the office space must be banned. Breaches of the law entail a fine of $500 per day !

Australia mindlessly follows much that is bad about America, we must urge our Governments to follow what is good.

NEW HOPE IN THE WORKPLACE

The New South Wales Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1983,No 20, which became law on 4th May, 1983 provides the most substantial hope yet for beleagured non-smokers in the workplace. Although making no reference to the specific problem of involuntary smoking, the operative provisions of the Act are drafted in so broad a manner as to provide an unchallengable legal basis for action against employers who allow employees to be exposed to tobacco smoke. The Act places an absolute, unqualified obligation on all employers under the jurisdiction of the State Government (including the Government itself) to "provide or maintain a working environment..... that is safe and without risks to health." Effectively this means that every employed person in New South Wales, except Commonwealth employees and the self-employed, has a statutory entitlement to such an environment.

The most important provisions of the Act for our purposes are set out below. They are generally straight forward and self-explanatory:-

"OBJECTS OF ACT

S. 5 (1) The objects of this Act are -

(a) to secure the health,safety and welfare of persons ..... at work:

(c) to promote an occupational environment for persons at work which is adapted to their physiological and psychological needs;

Act to Bind Crown

S.6 This Act binds the Crown, not only in right of New South Wales but also .....the Crown in all its other capacity.

Employers to ensure health, safety and welfare of their employees

S.15 (1) Every employer shall ensure the health,safety and welfare at work of all his employees.

S15. (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) an employer contravenes that subsection if he fails -

(a) to provide or maintain plant and systems of work that are safe and without risks to health;

.....

(e) to provide or maintain a working environment for his employees that is safe and without risks to health and adequate as regards facilities for their welfare at work.

Penalty - $50,000 in the case of a corporation and $5000 in any other case.

Employees at work to take care of others and to co-operate with employer.

S.19. Every employee while at work -

(a) shall take reasonable care for the health and safety of persons who are at his place of work and who may be affected by his acts or omissions at work.

Penalty: $1,000.

Unlawful dismissal, etc. of employee

S.26 (1) An employer shall not dismiss an employee or injure him in his employment or alter his position to his detriment by reason of the fact that the employee -

(a) make a complaint about a matter which he considers is not safe or is a risk to health;

.....

Authority to prosecute

S.48 (1) Proceedings for an offence against this Act or the regulations shall not be instituted without the written consent of the Minister or a prescribed officer.

.....

A casual or first reading of the Act, particularly focussing on Ss. 15, 19, and 26 might induce optimists to see the fight as virtually won - Alas, it is not the case. There are a number of major obstacles to be dealt with before the much hoped-for "test case" eliminates smoke from the workplace. Firstly, a prosecution can only be instituted with the written consent of the Minister (Pat Hills, Industrial Relations) or a prescribed officer. In effect any proposed legal action will have to overcome the inbuilt inertia and resistance of an old bureaucratic hierarchy before it gets to court. One smoker in a crucial position of power could block and delay us indefinitely. Secondly, the Department may well establish investigatory and evidence gathering procedures which would deny private individuals or groups such as ours any effective right to prosecute our own case. In other words a report by Departmental inspectors on the perceived risk in a particular workplace would doubtlessly carry more weight when a prosecution was being considered than submissions by the complainant. The problem is there are no "objective", generally accepted standards on the degrees of risk created by varying levels of tobacco pollution. Of course this uncertainty could well work to our advantage. It could be argued there is no "safe" level of exposure to proven carcinogens.

Some statements have already been made about the possible liability of fellow workers established in S.19. Not only is that section subject to S.48 but it is further limited by S.22 which states, in part, "nothing in this Division shall be construed - (a) as conferring a right of action in any civil proceedings in respect of any contravention, whether by act or omission, of any provision of this Division."

Despite limitations the main provisions outlined above are certainly our best hope yet to win a cleaner workplace. A "test case" under S.15 (2) (e) should be our aim. Victory would mean that any employer thereafter allowing an employee to be exposed to tobacco smoke would virtually automatically be in breach of the Act. We must remember, though, the standards of proof required in court. In addition to the 7 points outlined in "What to do about smoke pollution in your workplace" it would have to be established that a particular person, in a particular workplace at a particular time had been exposed to a quantifiable health risk (i.e an atmospheric concentration of proven toxins). The complainant's testimony, that of witnesses and medical certificates obtained after the exposure may not suffice. Air samples, scientifically analysed and documented would probably be a minimum requirement to prove exposure to a risk. The crucial phrase "risks to health" is to our advantage and should be easier to prove than actual damage.

In addition, we also have the opportunity to pursue it from the other direction. If a successful compensation claim could be made in the State sphere (i.e. following the Roy Bishop model) this should itself be evidence of a breach of S.15 (2) (e).

Any member wanting further information on, or wanting to participate in the workplace campaign is urged to contact Brian McBride (631-9888 a.h.) or Adrian Gattenhof (57-6429 a.h)

It is appropriate here to provide examples of the kind of thinking and attitudes we are likely to confront. Following are two extracts from letters from P.D. Hills, Minister for Industrial Relations, to the Movement relating specifically to the Act.

The first is a reply dated 5/10/82 to Dr. John Palmer's submission to the New South Wales Inquiry into Occupational Health and Safety:-

> "I have been concerned for some time about the effects of cigarette pollution in public places.....
> ...it could be appropriate to include measures designed to control such pollution in future Regulations in force under the Act. The proposed legislation will.....cover all persons at work which would provide the legal powers to potentially regulate the working environment in offices where pollution from cigarette smoking appears to be a particular problem."

The second, 25/7/83, replies to a telex in which Brian McBride drew the Minister's attention to instances where two women claim their health has been affected by smoke and where the employer has retaliated following complaints. Breaches of Ss 15 and 26 are alleged:-

> ".....there would be no prima facie breach of the occupational health and safety act by reason of the fact that tobacco smoking occurred in a particular work place.....
> There are very significant members of persons in the workforce who suffer.....as a result of having an allergic reaction to various environmental conditions. It would not be feasible to regard an allergic reaction by one person, caused by another's use of a particular substance, as an offence against the Act".

We are only allergic, Mr. Hills, in the way that any normal human being is allergic to a deadly poison which your colleague,Mr.Brereton, claims kills 16,000 Australians annually!

FURTHER INFORMATION ON INVOLUNTARY SMOKING AND THE STATE GOVERNMENT

Two members who work for the New South Wales Government have already circulated petitions which have attracted support from most fellow workers. Both sought simple measures, such as segregated accomodation, smoke free zones etc., to alleviate the involuntary smoking problem. The first, presented to Management of the Department of Consumer Affairs in late 1981, was virtually ignored; it included about 110 signatures. The second, has just recently been presented - its author prefers no specific reference at this stage. She is not optimistic about her Department's likely response.

In this context we have just received copies of official documents distributed to staff in the Premiers Department which recognise the damage caused to non-smokers by smokers and urge direct action to protect us. The principal paper is a submission by Dr. Roderick McEwin, Chairman of the Health Commission of New South Wales, dated 20 November,1980. All State Department Heads received the submission.

ASTOUND US ! BY ATTENDING THE ANNUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER **SEE BACK PAGE**

Following are the most pertinent sections from Dr. McEwin's submission:-

Protecting the health of Others

We need in the workplace an arrangement which respects the right of the non-smoking majority to breathe smoke-free air, but which allows smokers to retain their right to smoke if they so wish.

The basic principle is that members of the staff and the public should not be placed in a position of inhaling tobacco smoke unless they have actively chosen to do so.

Therefore in areas normally frequented by both smokers and non-smokers, such as conference rooms, smoking should not be permitted and appropriate "No Smoking" signs should be prominently displayed. This has been the procedure at meetings of the Health Commission for some time, and any initial doubts about its feasibility have not been borne out in practice.

In other areas, the arrangements should emerge by agreement among those who share the same working environment.

Members of staff might, for example, agree to allocate separate areas for smokers and non-smokers; or to set aside certain areas where smoking is permitted, but which are separate from the normal accommodation likely to be used by non-smoking staff.

Once a decision has been made, smoking and non-smoking areas should be clearly identified by the display of signs.

WORLD CONFERENCE ON SMOKING AND HEALTH

We've heard that the joint BUGA-UP/NSMA delegation to the 5th World Conference on Smoking and Health held recently in Canada met with enthusiastic acclaim.

Arthur Chesterfield-Evans will, hopefully, provide a full report in the next Clarion.

VIDEO NOW AVAILABLE

We now have copies of Death in the West on video. It contrasts the advertising image of the'Marlboro Man' with the reality of six American cowboys dying of tobacco related illnesses. A copy can be hired for $15 per week plus a $20 refundable deposit. (Copies also available in Victoria through MOPUP, P.O. Box 47, Clifton Hill, Vic. 3068.)

TOBACCO ADVERTISING TO BE PHASED OUT AT AIRPORTS

In a letter dated 18/7/83 Neal Blewett, the Federal Minister for Health, has advised that "there will be no new sub-contracts for tobacco advertising" at Sydney Melbourne and Brisbane International Airports. It is not clear whether this means that existing contracts will not be renewed.

We'll try to find out for the next Clarion.

GOOD NEWS FROM NEWCASTLE PUBLIC HOSPITALS

Andrew Zdenkowski has advised that the Royal Newcastle Hospital and Newcastle Mater Hospital, in response to his representations, have decided to stop selling tobacco products in their kiosks.

Congratulations Andrew on your 'sterling' success !

ONE SPORT WHERE DRUG PUSHERS MIGHT BE DISQUALIFIED AT THE START AND OUT OF THE RUNNING FOR GOOD !

Dr. Alex Tahmindjis, who appeared recently on 2BL's City Extra programme to discuss tobacco sponsorship of sport has written to the professional journal "Medical Practice" suggesting an alternative to cigarette money. He urges that doctors "who daily see the effects of tobacco on our patients", should each make a donation to a specifically established trust which would fund sporting bodies in need. His letter has been published; we urge all doctors to respond.

Dr. Tahmindjis is an honorary medical officer with both the Ice Hockey Association of N.S.W, which unanimously rejected tobacco money despite acute need and the Amateur Athletic Association of N.S.W which will decide in early October whether or not to approach tobacco companies.

He has also written to 22 Life Assurance companies seeking support for sports which do not accept tobacco money; however he reports that responses to date have not been encouraging.

It would be particularly appropriate for any member involved in athletics to write to the N.S.W. Amateur Association in support of Alex. The Movement also will be formally writing. Please act soon, the decision will be made in early October.

QUIT FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN

The Health Department's campaign has been astoundingly successful. They have published a 'Quit for Life, Community Information and Reference Manual'. It is an excellent manual and covers all aspects of smoking and health; passive smoking, smoking cessation, smoking control policies, action agencies, issues in smoking control which includes such things as how to make a complaint on cigarette advertising and smoking prevention and the school and smoking control legislation etc. The manual would be useful for all active anti-smokers and can be obtained by writing to Simon Chapman, Quit for Life Campaign, P.O. Box 11 Railway Square, Sydney, 2000. Campaign posters which carry the slogans "Gangrene is one of the less glamorous aspects of smoking", "We emptied an ashtray on this poster to remind you what smoking does to your breath and "Smokers-cough proof box" are also available.

Does the A.C.T need more anti-smoking laws?

The A.C.T Health Commission invited submissions and suggestions from the public during the month of June on changes to the A.C.T Tobacco Ordinance. Of the 2,500 submissions received an overwhelming majority favoured tighter control of cigarette smoking and advertising. Smoking in public places and workplaces was strongly opposed and restrictions on advertising at sportsgrounds and other sporting venues, cinemas and theatres. The Commission has decided to act and will give immediate attention to banning tobacco sales at hospital kiosks, segregating smokers and non-smokers in hospital wards, encouraging Health Commission workers to smoke only in areas designated for smokers, improving anti-smoking education for young people and providing courses for others wishing to give up smoking. (Canberra Times 16/7/83)

FINLAND TAKES THE LEAD

Smoking is banned in all public places, unless otherwise specified in Finland. This makes Finland the first country in the world to accept non-smoking as the rule and smoking as the exception.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Tamworth Council has recently banned smoking in all council and committee meetings. Further, they are considering segregating smokers in the Municipal offices. Progress at last.

BARGAIN CORNER

$2 will buy you a no-smoking magnetic sticker (suitable for metal surfaces in cars and kitchens) plus an assortment of small button stickers (suitable for envelopes or any other surface).

Also available:

A manual of tactics for counteracting the tobacco industry in the 1980's presented at the 5th World Conference on Smoking and Health in Canada, July 1983, by Simon Chapman for Consumer Interpol, is now available from Australian Consumers Association,28 Queen St., Chippendale 2008 - cost $5.00

Mop Up Stickers

Vinyl stickers with the messages - 'Benson & Hedges Stumps your growth' and 'Marlboro take the wind out of tennis' available for 50c.ea. from Mop Up P.O. Box 47, Clifton Hill, Victoria, 3068.

WHERE TO REGISTER YOUR COMPLAINTS

Following some requests from members we have listed below areas/premises and the associations which help to regulate their operations. If you wish to make a complaint about smoking in respect of one of the below direct your enquiries as indicated.

In Respect Of:	Write To:
Media Advertising	The Secretary, The Advertising Standards Council, St. Andrews House, Sydney Square, 2000(Ph.2647441)
Coaches	Bus & Coach Association (N.S.W), 27 Villiers St., North Parramatta,2150 (Ph.6308655)
Service Stations	Service Stations Assoc. of N.S.W Ltd., 504 Darling St. Rozelle,2039 (Ph.820599 or 8183308)
Supermarkerts & Department Stores	Managing Director of Store and The Retail Traders Assoc. of N.S.W., 18 Yorks St. Sydney, 2000 (Ph. 2903766) or Dept. of Services, 121 Macquarie St. Sydney 2000 (responsible for fire prevention) (Ph.20529)
Butchers shops	Local government or Meat & Allied Trades Federation of Australia,N.S.W Division, 210 George St. Sydney, 2000 (Ph.276941)
Restaurants	Local Govt.,Proprietor of restaurant.
Insurance	Insurance Council of Aust.Ltd. 20 Bridge St. Sydney 2000 (Ph. 277761)

LIKE RUST, EVIL NEVER SLEEPS

They tell us they're not after our kids, that all their pushing is to induce adult smokers to switch brands. We know it's a lie. Here, in a letter from P.J. Maher is the proof:-

Dear Sir,
Some three weekends back on the Saturday I was phoned by a mate and asked if I could lend a friend of his a certain tool to repair his car. The friend came over, borrowed the tool and then returned it some 3-4 hours later.

The friend was extremely grateful as his car was mobile again. To show his appreciation he commented "you told me earlier that you were having a 21st birthday party here tonight, could I give you some cartons of cigarettes for the young people?" He further added that he was an executive with a large cigarette company and was given a weekly free allowance of cigarettes for just such occasions. You can imagine my reply!

I don't wish to identify the person or company further as he may have believed he was doing a good turn, whereas in reality, he could have been instrumental in starting off another smoker on the downhill path to ill health.

Incidentally, his reaction to my comments showed how sensitive cigarette companies are to criticism. He apologised profusely and backed off at a rate of knots!

P.J. Maher

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members are invited to attend the sixth annual general meeting to be held
on: WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER 1983
at: THE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE, 399 PITT STREET, SYDNEY
time: 7.30 P.M.

(NOTE: 399 is a single door entrance on the western side of Pitt Street about halfway between Liverpool and Goulburn Streets).

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES
2. MINUTES OF LAST A.G.M. 11 NOVEMBER 1982
3. TREASURER'S REPORT
4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
5. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS
   * President
   * Vice-President
   * Secretary
   * Treasurer
   * Public Relations Officer
6. CAMPAIGNS FOR 1984
   * Formation of Sub-Committees
   * Volunteers to assist
7. GENERAL BUSINESS - Members are invited to raise new issues for discussion
8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (9/11/83)

(Tea and Coffee will be served after meet.

STOP PRESS - LATEST NEWS IS THAT SMOKE FREE TAXI REGULATIONS GO TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON 17 AUGUST AND SHOULD BE LAW BY END AUGUST -

AT LAST!!

TRANSPORTS OF DELIGHT FOR NON-SMOKERS

As mentioned in a recent Clarion by Kevin Eadie, the S.R.A is replacing unprofitable branch line trains with coaches.

Since May this year, John Coyle, an S.R.A employee has been conducting a vigorous correspondence with the Authority management over facilities for non-smokers on the often long journeys involved. He has suggested the adoption of American coach practice which provides the rear three rows of seats only for smoking, the rest is automatically non-smoking.

Here is the S.R.A's reply to John's submissions :-

Dear Mr. Coyle,

I refer to your letter of 3rd May which the Chief Executive passed on to me for attention in regard to the provision of a non-smoking area in the Authority's road coaches.
You will be pleased to learn that arrangements were made last year for all seats on the left hand side of our road coaches to be set aside for non-smokers while those on the other side of the coach were allocated to smokers. This scheme is similar to that adopted by major coach operators such as Pioneer and Greyhound.

To ensure passengers are aware of these arrangements, Coach Captains are required to make suitable announcements over the public address system prior to the departure of the coach.

I Trust that this information will clarify the situation for you.

Yours faithfully,
L.J. Freeman,
General Manager, Administration & Property