

✓ To ~~Commissioners Koerner & Menley and~~

Messrs Berenstein, Mitchell, Purcell, Neek  
and Neekelman ✓

For your information.

N.F.G.

4/23/71

From Norman Gallman  
Acting Commissioner

STATE  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER  
STATE CAPITOL  
ALBANY 12224

COPY

NFS

April 22, 1971

Dear Paul:

Widespread distribution of untaxed cigarettes in New York by criminal elements is threatening the existence of our State's legitimate cigarette industry. The impact of this illegal activity is also felt in the loss of millions of dollars in much-needed public revenues.

In view of this situation, I request that the State Commission of Investigation undertake a thorough examination of criminal involvement in the cigarette industry, with particular emphasis on conditions in New York City. The Commission, in conducting its inquiry, should seek to determine:

- the extent and nature of criminal activity in the distribution and sale of cigarettes in New York;
- the scope and effectiveness of present law enforcement efforts to combat distribution of contraband cigarettes including police, prosecutorial and judicial practices and procedures; and
- the appropriateness of existing laws, federal, state and local, affecting the New York cigarette industry.

I look forward to the results of the Commission's investigation in supplying urgently needed answers to combat this serious area of criminal activity.

Sincerely,

Honorable Paul J. Curran  
Chairman  
State Commission of Investigation  
270 Broadway  
New York, New York 10007

cc: ~~Hon.~~ Norman F. Gallman