



Wide World Photos

Grayson Kirk

of American cigarette companies complained frequently of "draw" problems with the filter. But Kirk had apparently made no firm decision to halt licensing talks until he came to Washington and met with the subcommittee staff members, who had prepared some potentially embarrassing questions for the next day. By acknowledging the "draw" problem and pledging more testing, Kirk avoided these. His appearance before the committee was relatively brief, and the questions were mild. Columbia had been saved public embarrassment by the last-minute decision; none of the Senators really wanted to harass the university.

The visit to Washington, however, disrupted the entire project. Not only were talks with tobacco companies halted, but the announcement accentuated growing strains between the university's administrators and the inventor and his associates. The university is being cautious; those in the Strickman camp are for speed, and the testimony in Washington came as a complete and unpleasant surprise. They do not believe the problems are so great. Strickman dismisses the pressure-drop problem as a "red herring" and believes it can be solved. According to newspaper reports, Gordon Kaye, a Columbia researcher who has been working at the Strickman laboratory since August, agrees.

After the draw problem became apparent, the Strickman laboratory began studying ways of minimizing it. The normal pressure drop of most king-size filter cigarettes is 4 to 5 inches (pressure drop—the "draw"—is mea-

sured on a manometer in terms of the number of inches of water depressed). The closer the Strickman filter can get to this level, the better its chances of acceptance will be. By enlarging the filter chamber and regulating the particle size of the filter material, the Strickman laboratories are said to reduce the pressure drop to about 6 inches. Most American companies have been adamant about the pressure drop and unwilling to consider enlarging chamber size; one company, however, is reported to be showing interest enough to supply the Strickman labs with a sizable supply of long filter chambers.

Foreign companies are said to be more eager than their American counterparts to try the filter. Their reaction may stem, in some cases, from experience with filters that have slightly higher "draws" than American cigarettes, or, in other instances, freedom from the governmental pressures that are felt by American cigarette firms. The filter's chief asset, according to its proponents, is that it lets the taste come through. Testimonials, described as of independent origin, generally laud the filter on this score.

Progress on the filter is still suspended—no one knows for how long. Strickman makes light of the problem of pressure drop, but the fact that the problem is there—and was not acknowledged at the beginning—makes it important. The position of the American tobacco companies (if it is not, as some think it is, a bargaining posture) makes the problem all the more important.

President Kirk has appointed Ralph Halford, a chemist and ex-dean of graduate facilities, to oversee new tests of the filter. These will probably include comparison of its effectiveness with that of current filters at similar pressure drops. Once begun, these tests should take from 2 to 4 weeks. Halford is reportedly anxious to avoid becoming a grand adviser, and the test results will probably go to a committee for further evaluation. Conceivably, the question could revert to the trustees, though there seems to be no plan for this action now and it may depend more on the trustees' interest than on anything else.

The Strickman-Columbia story continues to be confused. When the university's leaders acquired rights to the filter, they were unprepared for what would follow. The central strategy was to use the institution's prestige to convince the tobacco industry to adopt the

filter. The subsequent controversy, whatever its merits, has undoubtedly tainted Columbia's image of purity, weakening its bargaining position in the process. If talks are resumed, the university's principal ally will be Adam Smith: if one company tries to steal the market by adopting the filter, it may force its competitors to follow suit.—ROBERT J. SAMUELSON

APPOINTMENTS

Harold C. Syrett, vice chancellor of the State University of New York, to president of Brooklyn College. He will succeed **Francis P. Kilcoyne** on 1 January. . . . **Richard L. Naeye**, associate professor of pathology and program director of the Clinical Research Center, University of Vermont College of Medicine, to chairman of the department of pathology, Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Pennsylvania State University. . . . **J. A. Barker**, chief research scientist, CSIRO Division of Physical Chemistry, Melbourne; **P. O. Bishop**, chairman of physiology, Australian National University; **R. Hanbury Brown**, professor of physics (astronomy), University of Sydney; **A. McL. Mathieson**, chief research scientist, CSIRO Division of Chemical Physics, Melbourne, **G. J. V. Nossal**, director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne; **J. R. Philip**, assistant chief of the CSIRO Division of Plant Industry, Canberra, to fellows of the Australian Academy of Sciences. . . . **Lloyd W. Law**, NIH, and **Hugh J. Creech**, Institute for Cancer Research, to president and vice president of the American Association for Cancer Research, Inc. . . . **Charles V. Willie**, associate professor of sociology, Syracuse University, on leave as visiting lecturer in sociology, Department of Psychiatry, Harvard University School of Medicine, to chairman of the Department of Sociology, Syracuse University. . . . **Elio Passaglia**, chief of the polymer physics section, National Bureau of Standards, to chief of the metallurgy division, NBS. . . . **L. R. Christensen**, New York Medical School, to director of animal facilities, University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine. . . . **Harry Rodney**, professor of biochemistry, Western Reserve University, to chairman of the department of biological chemistry, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.