

fact that Wilson was a speaker last summer in a series of \$5000-per-couple Republican fundraisers hosted by Philip Morris. Wilson, however, has repeatedly made public denials that he is beholden to the tobacco lobby.

But John Miller, an aide to state senator Diane Watson, points out that the one tobacco program Wilson spared was community-based smoking-cessation classes, which Miller says have been low on the tobacco industry hit-list because they are viewed as ineffective. "There are only two programs [in the proposition] that tobacco ever wanted killed, the research and media programs," Miller says. "There is no question they are happy today."

Moreover, Miller points out, Wilson has left intact the pool of cigarette-tax money that has the least to do with smoking. As a concession to environmentalists who supported the tobacco tax, authors of the initiative earmarked 5% of the money to environmental programs, including a fund to buy land for parks and a mountain lion protection plan. That money has not been touched. "Health education is more central to the initiative than the 5% that went to the environmental stuff," says Miller. The budget-makers, he says, "realized they could kick the hell out of the voluntary health organizations," because "they don't have the political clout of the Sierra Club."

Regardless of what the governor's motivations were, his opponents say the move was illegal. California's constitution guarantees that voter-approved initiatives cannot be altered by the governor or legislature in a way that violates their intent. And, since the initiative requires that 25% of the money go to tobacco education and research, diverting that money to another purpose is a violation, they say. Last week, the state's legislative analyst echoed that view. But the governor is standing firm. His aides argue that since the original initiative provided that 45% of the tax money go to health services for the poor, shifting more money into that pool is consistent with the initiative's intent.

Notably absent from those protesting the governor's actions are the state Department of Health Services and the University of California. The health department supports the governor's cancellation of the media program, and the University of California has declared that it has no position on the research cuts. Even without those allies, the American Lung Association is continuing to play David to the state's Goliath. It began legal action last month by filing a request with the Sacramento county superior court for a temporary hold on the diversion of funds—a request the court hasn't yet acted on. Meanwhile, the state legislature last week

approved the shutdown of the ad campaign.

Glantz is not surprised by that action—he has been documenting a dramatic rise in tobacco industry money pouring into the campaign coffers of California legislators, and last year published a report on the subject. Such investigative projects may seem outside the usual territory of a medical research scientist, but Glantz says they are

necessary to defend a field as threatened as tobacco research. And Glantz intends to continue to rally the troops to the cause. "If the tobacco control people are willing to fight like hell, I think they will win," he says. "If [the program] can be maintained, it will be a huge victory. It will say to the tobacco industry, 'The people have spoken.'"

■ MARCIA BARINAGA

Animal Rightists Trash MSU Lab

Michigan State University (MSU) became the latest target of animal rights terrorism on 28 February when members of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) broke into a hall and set fire to the office of Richard Aulerich, who does toxicology and nutrition research using mink as experimental animals.

Aulerich—who, ironically, is the head of the university's Committee on Animal Use and Care—says data he had accumulated over 32 years went up in smoke. The contents of 14 file cabinets were mostly ruined. Now gone, says Aulerich, is "one of the best fur animal research libraries in the world." Next door, the fire melted computer disks in the office of toxicology expert Karen Chou, whose research includes efforts to use animal sperm as a substitute for whole animals in toxicity testing. The vandals also poured sulfuric acid on research equipment and spray-painted walls with threatening graffiti ("The otters are next," they wrote, referring to animals housed in the same area as the mink). The attack caused about \$75,000 worth of damage, according to a university spokesman.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, which acts as a spokesman for ALF, issued a press release saying Aulerich "has killed thousands of minks in painful and scientifically worthless experiments." Aulerich countered that "animals are not allowed to suffer" and are euthanized when necessary to avoid pain. Mink are prized subjects for toxicology research, he says, because of their susceptibility to various environmental chemicals. Lately, Aulerich has been using them to assess levels of contaminants in carp from Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay. The Environmental Protection Agency has also used MSU research for developing water quality standards.

This past year has been the year of the mink for ALF—in line with animal activists' campaign against wearing fur. The MSU episode follows a raid at Oregon State University's mink research farm last June, where arsonists burned a barn, and at Washington State University in August, where offices were vandalized and a number of animals stolen. Aulerich says the activists have now attacked "the three institutions that are doing most of the fur animal research in the United States."

The FBI has been brought into the MSU case because Aulerich receives federal funding and the perpetrators apparently crossed state lines. But in less serious cases states have had to pursue justice on their own. The results have been very poor, says Barbara Rich of the National Association for Biomedical Research. Because of limits in both states' investigatory capacities and their jurisdiction, the 80 or so break-ins and other illegal episodes involving animal activists over the past decade have resulted in only "three little bitty convictions," says Rich.

Congress may be moving soon to remedy that situation. Last October the Senate passed a bill authored by Senator Howell Heflin (D-AL) making it a federal crime to break into an animal research facility. The House is considering a similar bill sponsored by Representative Charles W. Stenholm (D-TX) that would apply to all animal facilities including farms.

■ CONSTANCE HOLDEN



Up in smoke. Aulerich surveys the damage.