

Court orders release of secret papers

■ The Supreme Court ordered the release of 39,000 tobacco documents.

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court cleared the way today for the tobacco industry's forced release of 39,000 secret documents in a Minnesota trial.

The court rejected an emergency request in which the nation's cigarette makers claimed that most of the documents are privileged information that should stay secret.

A Minnesota trial judge had ordered their release and within hours of today's action, about 20 boxes of documents were delivered to the Minneapolis office of Michael Ciresi, lead attorney for the plaintiffs.

Today's order meant all the documents must be surrendered to lawyers for Minnesota and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. The state and the insurance company are suing cigarette makers to recover \$1.77 billion spent to treat smoking-related illnesses. They also are seeking punitive damages.

The order does not make the 39,000 documents public.

Tobacco industry lawyers had argued that release of the documents would unfairly harm their clients in the Minnesota case and also in "hundreds of other pending cases."

Today, defense attorneys said they were disappointed with the high court's one-sentence rejection of their request for an emergency stay, saying that it set a bad precedent.

"I think it's very unfortunate," said Greg Little, an attorney for Philip Morris Inc. "It sends a very chilling message to any trial lawyer that attorney-client privilege is not as sacred as it once was."

Lawyers for the state and insurance company say some of the sought-after documents may be the most significant to their case.

Ciresi, lead attorney for the plaintiffs, said his team is "already geared up" to comb through the documents and to start using them right away in cross-examining tobacco industry witnesses.

Clinton issues order to ban guns

WASHINGTON — Vowing "to do our best to keep our people alive," President Clinton today closed a loophole through which thousands of foreign-made assault rifles entered the United States despite a 1994 ban.

With the White House Rose Garden and a wall of uniformed police officers as a backdrop, Clinton issued an executive order that permanently barred importation of 58 assault weapons that were modified for sport shooting in order to get around the ban. Most of the affected guns are variations of the AK-47 and Uzi semiautomatic weapons.

The National Rifle Association immediately promised a bid to overturn Clinton's ban in Congress. "We believe the people who have responsibility for writing gun laws are the Congress, not the president," said Tonya Metaska, the NRA's main lobbyist.

Metaska dismissed today's order as "nothing more than cosmetics," saying prohibiting these guns would do little to stop crime. "These are not the guns of

choice of criminals," she said. "They weren't in 1994 and they're even less so in 1998."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who pressed Clinton to issue the order, estimated that his action would keep 1.6 million rifles from ending up in the hands of criminals.

"These guns are the tools of gang members, grievance killers and those who go up against police," Feinstein said. "They do not belong on our streets and President Clinton is right to keep them out of our country."

Clinton hailed an overall drop in violent crime since he took office in 1993, but said much work remains in preventing violence as long as gun manufacturers "can make minor cosmetic modifications to weapons of war" and send them onto the streets of America.

"There are still far too many children in harm's way, too many families behind locked doors, too many guns in the hands of too many criminals," he said.

Speaking directly to gun makers, the president added, "You can read the fine

print in our law and our regulations all you want, and you can keep making minor changes, but we're going to do our best to keep our people alive and stop you from making a dollar in the wrong way."

Rep. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., who sponsored the 1994 ban, said he would introduce a resolution in Congress later this month supporting Clinton's action, a maneuver he hoped would thwart an attempt to overturn the ban.

"We can't let a bunch of gun extremists put lives in jeopardy," Schumer said. "They'll continue to prod and poke in a tireless search for new loopholes."

Clinton's order follows a Treasury Department review of 59 weapons, done in consultation with state game and law enforcement agencies and hunting advocates.

The review determined that many of the guns in question do not meet requirements under federal law for import for sporting purposes, mainly because they can be fitted with large-capacity magazines.

Clinton can focus on country after Jones' lawsuit dismissal

WASHINGTON — President Clinton says the dismissal of Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit removes an obstacle from his duties to the nation, and keeping his private problems and public obligations separate has "been a test."

Clinton scored a major victory last week when a federal judge in Arkansas threw out Jones' case against him. But he still faces independent counsel Kenneth Starr's investigation into his alleged sexual relations with White House intern Monica Lewinsky, and Jones is expected to decide this week whether to appeal.

In an interview in this week's Time magazine, Clinton said that if he were "just an average citizen, Joe Six-Pack," he would have wanted the Jones case to go to trial so he could prove his innocence.

As president, he said, having it dismissed "and putting this behind us is plainly in the best interest of the coun-

try." Every president since George Washington, he said, has talked about how the United States deserves a chief executive who is able to completely free himself of personal concerns "and become totally obsessed with the public interest. It's been a test. But I've tried to do that."

With the Jones case dismissed, Clinton said he was "freer to keep doing what I'm supposed to be doing," focusing on such issues as tobacco legislation, education and Social Security.

That was the theme of Clinton supporters on the Sunday television news



PAULA JONES is expected to decide whether to appeal her case against President Bill Clinton later this week, officials said.

programs, who emphasized that he continues to receive high ratings among most Americans for his political initiatives.

"This president has chosen the politics of ideas and the battlefield of ideas. His opponents have chosen the battlefield of insult and innuendo," senior White House adviser Rahm Emanuel said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"I think (independent counsel) Kenneth Starr, no matter what bravado he may put forward now, clearly must be looking for an exit strategy," Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-N.J., said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Starr is under pressure from both Democrats and Republicans to wrap up his four-year investigation, which began with an examination of the Whitewater land deal in Arkansas. He is expected to file a report within the next few months to the Republican-led House, which then must decide whether to launch impeachment proceedings against Clinton.

Medication reduces risk of breast cancer

WASHINGTON — In what health officials called a historic and significant advance, federal researchers said they have definite proof that a drug can effectively prevent breast cancer in women at high risk of the disease, the first-ever demonstration of such an effect.

"This is the first imperfect, but very encouraging, step toward finding drugs" that prevent a number of different kinds of cancer, said Dr. Richard Klausner, the director of the National Cancer Institute.

Klausner today presented the results of a study which show a drug called tamoxifen is capable of reducing the risk of breast cancer 40 percent to 50 percent among women at high risk.

"We are now in a position to give women an option. We can now intervene prior to the detection of breast cancer and really reduce a woman's chance of developing the disease," said Leslie Ford, the National Cancer Institute official overseeing the trial.

Government officials acknowledged that the protection came with an increased risk of another type of cancer and of blood clots.

And the research clearly showed, Klausner said, that the benefits for women at high risk in preventing breast cancer outweighed the risk of side effects from taking the drug.

Ford added that any decision to commence treatment should be weighed carefully.

"As with any medication, the decision to begin tamoxifen therapy is a very complex one," she said.

"There are no simple answers," she said.

Ford predicted four years ago that if 16,000 women were recruited, tamoxifen would be expected to prevent 120 to 125 breast cancer cases, while producing 58 to 80 new cases of uterine cancer — which is far easier to detect early and cure than breast cancer.

Today, she noted that "none of the risks were unanticipated."

ANDERSON

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was not raised because of his illness.

With his next 12 rounds of chemotherapy not scheduled until after Easter, Anderson has some time before he has to go through the pain again.

"Thank God, I'll be off it for awhile," he said. "I believe in it. A lot of people don't. The doctor is part of the whole

scheme of things. God guides this hands and brain. I include him in the whole spiritual thing."

While Anderson remains optimistic about his chances of beating his cancer, Gust said it was very serious.

"He's beat it before, so he can beat it again," she said. "He's very strong physically. His work's not done. Hank has spent a lifetime contributing to the community, and I want that to continue."

CONTRACTS

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not in keeping with the spirit of the program," Tufts said.

Task force member Todd Pugatch, a freshman from Revere, Mass., said support from UNC was important to the cause because UNC has the second largest licensing program in the CLC.

"Whenever (the big) schools get together and make a stand, it's going to follow throughout the United States," Pugatch said.

Even if the code passes, UNC will not be the first university to take a position against unethical labor practices.

Tico Almeida, a Duke University junior from Madison, Wis., who helped write its code, said that although UNC's efforts were not unique, they were

important to the code's success.

"In order for any code to be successful, it's crucial that universities work in collaboration," Almeida said.

Though Duke's conduct code allows monitors to make unannounced visits to factories, Almeida said specific methods of monitoring were left out on purpose to allow further discussion.

But Tufts said UNC was trying to include other schools in an enforceable code rather than making a public statement as Duke did.

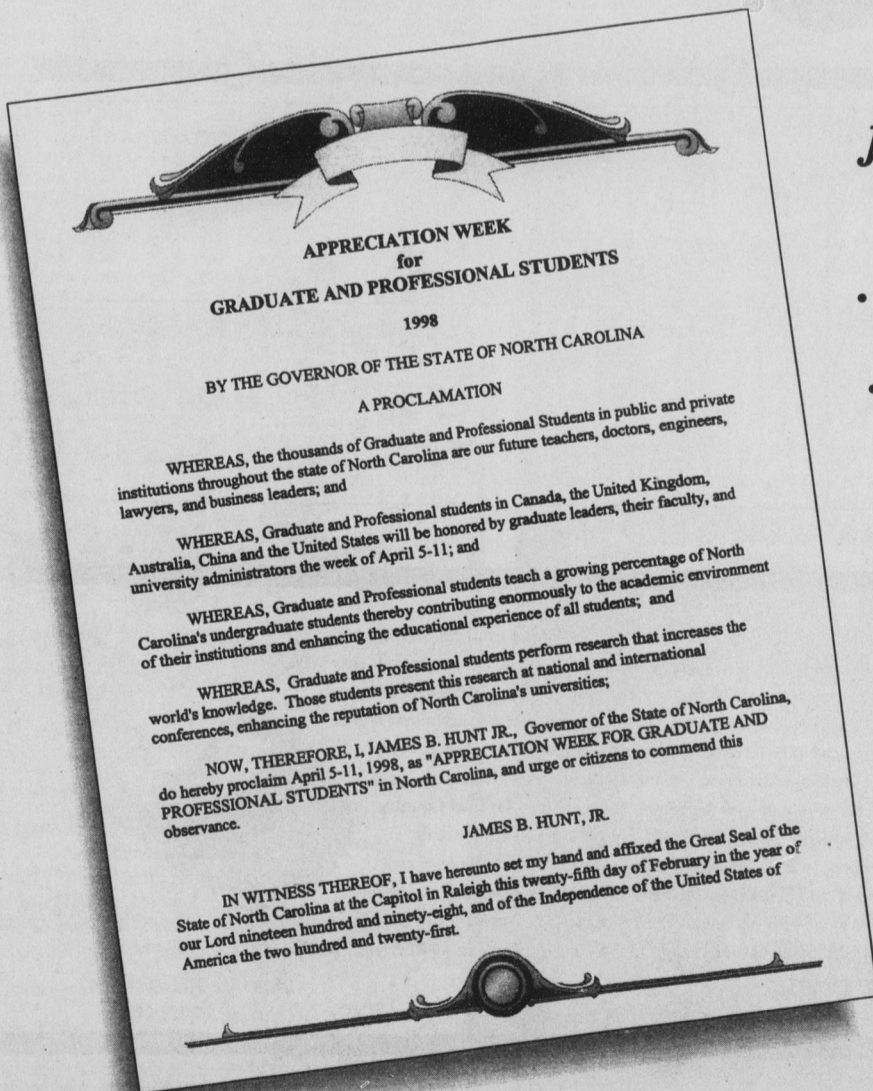
"It's my belief that if these schools get together, it will have a much better impact than if one or two schools go off alone," Tufts said.

"You can go on and have all the wonderful principles, but unless you can enforce them, you really haven't accomplished very much."

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