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Smoking banned

Labour forces through bill barring smoking in all workplaces

1 - **WELLINGTON:** Supporters of a smoking ban in pubs, clubs and casinos say it will bring a breath of fresh air to the industry that will save workers' lives.

5 - Despite years of strident criticism and predictions of doom for the hospitality industry, last Wednesday Parliament passed

10 - laws banning smoking in all workplaces, including licensed premises, by Christmas 2004.

15 - The bill was passed by 68 to 52 after Labour forced all of its MPs to vote for it, while other parties allowed a conscience vote.

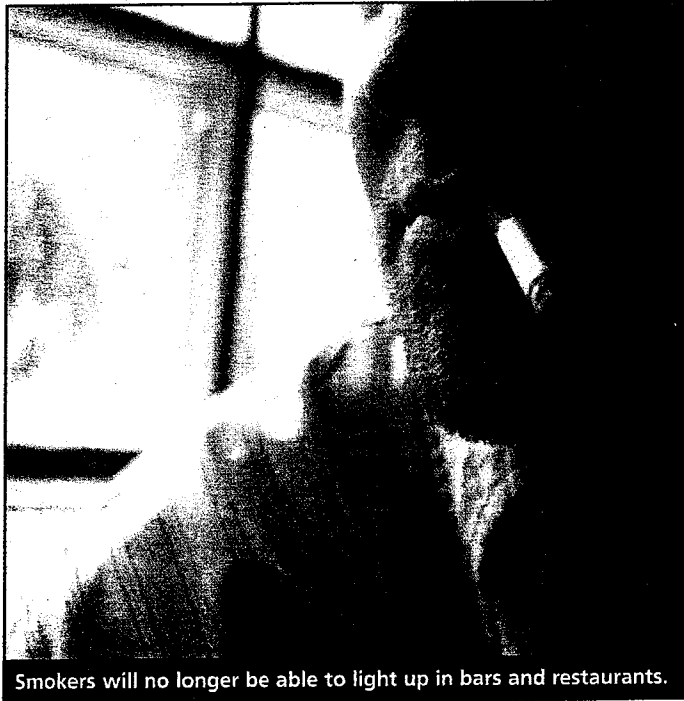
20 - The Cancer Society said the bill would save the lives of hundreds of New Zealanders every year.

Chief Executive Neil Chave said the Cancer Society, along with many other health organisations, had worked extremely hard to achieve this result.

25 - "There is no question that second-hand smoke can — and does — kill," he said. "There is no acceptable justification for exposing employees to this risk in their working environment."

30 - The bill's promoter, Labour MP Steve Chadwick, told Parliament that almost 383 people a year died due to inhaling second hand smoke and hospitality staff were the most at risk.

35 - New Zealand First MP Pita Paraone felt the bill patronised



TNT IMAGES

Smokers will no longer be able to light up in bars and restaurants.

40 - people as it said the Government believed it knew best.

However, National's Paul Hutchinson said the bill was a boon for the "freedom" of the 75% of New Zealanders who did not smoke and wanted to breathe fresh air.

50 - The bill creates smoke enforcement officers with wide powers to enter premises, take evidence and issue infringement notices resulting in fines of up to \$4000

for breaches of the law.

Anti-smoking lobby group ASH said the new law would have no negative economic impact on the hospitality industry.

"All the evidence points to increased profits for the hospitality sector or at the very least profits will be maintained at the same level," ASH director Trish Fraser said, citing the example of California, which has implemented a similar smoking ban.

8 XII 2003