



LIMBAUGH: "There is no conclusive proof that nicotine's addictive ... [or with] cigarettes causing emphysema, lung cancer, heart disease." (Radio show, 4/29/94)

LIMBAUGH: "We closed down a whole town—Times Beach, Mo.—over the threat of dioxin. We now know there was no reason to do that. Dioxin at those levels isn't harmful." (*Ought to Be*, p. 163)

REALITY: Nicotine's addictiveness has been reported in medical literature since the turn of the century. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop's 618-page 1988 report on nicotine addiction left no doubts on the subject. "Today the scientific base linking smoking to a number of chronic diseases is overwhelming, with a total of 50,000 studies from dozens of countries," states *Encyclopedia Britannica's* 1987 "Medical and Health Annual."

REALITY: "The hypothesis that low exposures [to dioxin] are entirely safe for humans is distinctly less tenable now than before," editorialized the *New England Journal of Medicine* after publishing a study (1/24/91) on cancer mortality and dioxin. In 1993, after Limbaugh's book was written, a study showed that residents of Seveso, Italy had increased cancer rates after being exposed to dioxin. The EPA's director of environmental toxicology said this study removed one of the last remaining doubts about dioxin's deadly effects (*AP*, 8/29/93).

LIMBAUGH: "The worst of all of this is the lie that condoms really protect against AIDS. The condom failure rate can be as high as 20 percent. Would you get on a plane—or put your children on a plane—if one in five passengers would be killed on the flight? Well, the statistic holds for condoms, folks." (*Ought to Be*, p. 135)

REALITY: A one in five AIDS risk for condom users? Not true, according to Dr. Joseph Kelaghan, who evaluates contraceptives for the National Institutes of Health. "There is substantive evidence that condoms prevent transmission if used consistently and properly," he said. He pointed to a nearly two-year study of couples in which one partner was HIV-positive. Among the 123 couples who used condoms regularly, there wasn't a single new infection (*St. Petersburg Times*, 1/30/94).

LIMBAUGH: "Most Canadian physicians who are themselves in need of surgery, for example, scurry across the border to get it done right: the American way. They have found, through experience, that state medical care is too expensive, too slow and inefficient, and, most important, it doesn't provide adequate care for most people." (*Told You So*, p. 153)

REALITY: "Mr. Limbaugh's claim simply isn't true," says Dr. Hugh Scully, chair of the Canadian Medical Association's Council on Healing and Finance. "The vast majority of Canadians, including physicians, receive their care here in Canada. Those few Canadians who receive health care in the U.S. most often do because they have winter homes in the States—like Arizona and Florida—and have emergent health problems there." Medical care in Canada is hardly "too expensive"; it's provided free and covered by taxes.

LIMBAUGH: "If you have any doubts about the status of American health care, just compare it with that in other industrialized nations." (*Told You So*, p. 153)

REALITY: The United States ranks 19th in life expectancy and 20th in infant survival among industrialized nations, according to the CIA's 1993 *World Fact Book*. The U.S. also has the lowest health care satisfaction rate (11 percent) of the 10 largest industrialized nations (*Health Affairs*, Vol. 9, No. 2).

LIMBAUGH: Denouncing Jeremy Rifkin of the Beyond Beef campaign as an "ecopest": "Rifkin is bent out of shape because he says the cattle consume enough grain to feed hundreds of millions of people. The reason the cattle are eating the grain is so they can be fattened and slaughtered, after which they will feed people, who need a high protein diet." (*Ought to Be*, p. 110)

REALITY: Sixteen pounds of grain and soy are required to produce one pound of edible food from beef (USDA Economic Research Service). As for needing a "high-protein diet," the World Health Organization and U.S. Department of Agriculture recommend that from 4.5 percent to 6 percent of daily calories come from protein. The amount of calories from protein in rice is 8 percent; in wheat it's 17 percent (*USDA Handbook No. 456*).

LIMBAUGH: "Do you know we have more acreage of forest land in the United States today than we did at the time the constitution was written?" (Radio show, 2/18/94)

REALITY: In what are now the 50 U.S. states, there were 850 million acres of forest land in the late 1700s, vs. only 730 million today (*The Bum's Rush*, p. 136). Limbaugh's claim also ignores the fact that many of today's forests are single-species tree farms, as opposed to natural old-growth forests that support diverse ecosystems.