A Sweet Deal for a Tobacco Executive
Wall Street Journal; New York; May 13, 1998; By Jeremy Bulow;

Abstract:
Brooke owns Liggett, which makes L&M, Lark and Chesterfield cigarettes. As this newspaper reported in 1993, Mr. LeBow pulled tens of millions of dollars out of the company and used it to finance a lavish lifestyle, pushing Liggett to the brink of bankruptcy. Under Mr. LeBow's leadership, Liggett's market share has fallen to 1.3% from 6%.

But this time Mr. LeBow has come up with a new way to get money: have Congress give it to him. Under the Commerce Committee's bill, tobacco companies are to pay higher taxes on the sale of cigarettes, increasing to 65 cents a pack in 1999 and $1.10 a pack beginning in 2003. But Liggett has been made exempt from this tax, so long as it keeps its market share below 3%. Liggett argues that it deserves the break for turning over secret industry documents to the state attorneys general whose lawsuits against tobacco companies spurred the current legislation.