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MONDAY, JULY 26, 2004

## Tobacco Turns Into Pork

by Michael in New York on 7/26/2004 08:07:00 PM

That massive tobacco payout -- \$12 billion and counting -- seems more and more like a massive bailout for major tobacco growers, rather than a reasonable way of weaning small farmers off government handouts propping up their business. The ones profiting the most? The large and medium-size growers that have been rapidly *expanding* in the last few years while small farmers quit. Overseas competition and antiquated quotas left over from the Depression meant we were losing ground in the world market. Now, thanks to our tax dollars going up in smoke, those companies already growing will flourish even more. Experts expect some crops - like the flue-cured tobacco that dominates North Carolina (which alone gets \$4 billion) -- to grow from 300 million pounds to 450 or even 500 million pounds.

- Federal Tobacco Tax Increase a Good Reason to Quit Smoking
- No April Fooling: Higher Taxes On Tobacco Really Do Reduce Smoking ...
- Commonwealth Brands Thinks Tobacco Tax is an Outrage

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He continued with, "It is disappointing that states, especially one like North Carolina which has benefited from tobacco for so many years, ...

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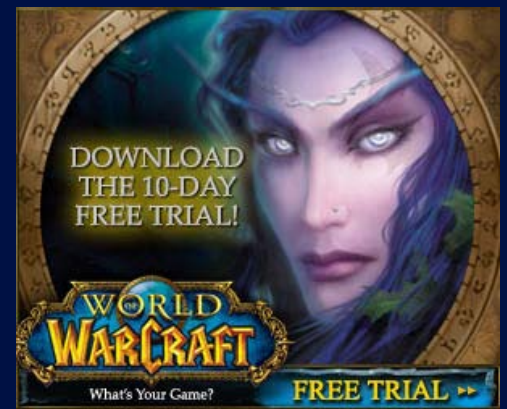
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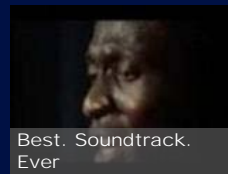
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