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PHILIP MORRIS COMPANIES INC

Form 8-K

May 08, 2001

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of  
The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): May 7, 2001

PHILIP MORRIS COMPANIES INC.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Virginia (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	1-8940 (Commission File Number)	13-3260245 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
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120 Park Avenue, New York, New York (Address of principal executive offices)	10017-5592 (Zip Code)
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Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (917) 663-5000

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

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Item 5. Other Events.

On May 7, 2001, Philip Morris Companies Inc. (the "Company") announced that its domestic tobacco subsidiary, Philip Morris Incorporated ("Philip Morris USA"), together with certain other Engle defendants ("Participating

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Defendants"), as obtained trial court approval of a Stipulation and Agreed Order Regarding Stay of Execution Pending Review and Related Matters (the "Stipulation") between Philip Morris USA and the plaintiffs and the plaintiff

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class in the Engle smoking and health class action in Florida. The Stipulation  
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provides that execution or enforcement of the punitive damages component of the  
judgment in the Engle class action will remain stayed against Philip Morris USA  
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and the other Participating Defendants through the completion of all judicial  
review.

As a result of the Stipulation and in addition to the \$100 million bond it  
has already posted, Philip Morris USA will put \$1.2 billion into an interest  
bearing escrow account. Should Philip Morris USA prevail in its appeal of the  
case, both amounts would return to Philip Morris USA. Philip Morris USA will  
also place an additional \$500 million into a separate interest bearing escrow  
account. If Philip Morris USA prevails in its appeal, this amount would be paid  
to the court and the court will determine how to allocate or distribute it  
consistent with the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure.

The Company will restate its consolidated earnings for the first quarter of  
2001 to reflect a \$500 million pre-tax charge to earnings. The charge is  
expected to be approximately \$300 million on an after-tax basis. The charge  
does not affect the Company's underlying net earnings for the first quarter of  
2001.

The restatement of first quarter earnings will not affect the Company's  
previously disclosed projected growth rates for 2001 underlying earnings per  
share and underlying cash earnings per share. However, the impact of adverse  
currency, as well as other factors described in the Forward-Looking and  
Cautionary Statements included in this Form 8-K, will continue to be a risk to  
these projections.

The Stipulation is attached as Exhibit 99.2 to this Form 8-K and the  
foregoing is qualified in all respects by reference thereto. The Company's Form  
10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2001, will include a further description of  
the accounting treatment for the Stipulation.

### Forward-Looking and Cautionary Statements -----

The Company and its representatives may from time to time make written  
or oral forward-looking statements, including statements contained in the  
Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission and in its reports  
to stockholders. One can identify these forward-looking statements by use of  
words such as "strategy," "expects," "plans," "believes," "will," "estimates,"  
"intends," "projects," "goals," "target" and other words of similar meaning. One  
can also identify them by the fact that they do not relate strictly to  
historical or current facts. In connection with the "safe harbor" provisions of  
the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, the Company is hereby  
identifying important factors that could cause actual results and outcomes to  
differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement made by  
or on behalf of the Company. Any such statement is qualified by reference to the  
following cautionary statements.

The tobacco industry continues to be subject to health concerns relating  
to the use of tobacco products and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke,  
legislation, including actual and potential excise tax increases, increasing  
marketing and regulatory restrictions, governmental regulation, privately  
imposed smoking restrictions, governmental and grand jury investigations,  
litigation, including risks associated with adverse jury and judicial  
determinations, courts reaching conclusions at variance with the Company's  
understanding of applicable law, bonding requirements and the absence of  
adequate appellate remedies to get timely relief from any of the foregoing, and

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the effects of price increases related to concluded tobacco litigation settlements and excise tax increases on consumption rates. Each of the Company's consumer products subsidiaries is subject to intense competition, changes in consumer preferences, the effects of changing prices for its raw materials and local economic conditions. Their results are dependent upon their continued ability to promote brand equity successfully, to anticipate and respond to

new consumer trends, to develop new products and markets and to broaden brand portfolios, in order to compete effectively with lower priced products in a consolidating environment at the retail and manufacturing levels, and to improve productivity. In addition, Philip Morris International Inc., Kraft Foods International, Inc. and Kraft Foods North America, Inc. are subject to the effects of foreign economies and the related shifts in consumer preferences, and currency movements. Developments in any of these areas, which are more fully described in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000, could cause the Company's results to differ materially from results that have been or may be projected by or on behalf of the Company. The Company cautions that the foregoing list of important factors is not exclusive. The Company does not undertake to update any forward-looking statement that may be made from time to time by or on behalf of the Company.

Item 7. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits.

(a) and (b) Historical Financial Statements and Pro Forma Financial Information:

Not applicable.

(c) Exhibits.

99.1 Press Release.

99.2 Stipulation and Agreed Order Regarding Stay of Execution Pending Review and Related Matters.

### SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

PHILIP MORRIS COMPANIES INC.

By: /s/ G. PENN HOLSENBECK

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Name: G. Penn Holsenbeck  
Title: Vice President, Associate  
General Counsel and Corporate  
Secretary

DATE: May 7, 2001

### EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
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99.1

Press Release.

99.2

Stipulation and Agreed Order Regarding Stay of Execution Pending  
Review and Related Matters.