Asbestos Information Association/North America

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
AIA-46

October 27, 1971

Mr. Peter J. Bernstein
NEWHOUSE NEWS SERVICE
1750 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bernstein:

Your recent story on the National Academy of Sciences report on asbestos which was carried by the NEWHOUSE NEWS SERVICE contains a serious error about the amount of asbestos emissions from brake linings.

Your article states in reference to brake linings:
"The linings undergo considerable wear, producing heat which converts 97 to 99 percent of the asbestos fibers into airborne particles."

The report of the National Academy of Sciences states:
"In the case of brake linings, the application of energy is so intense and the heat created so great that most chrysotile fibers are destroyed by being converted to another substance, which is nonfibrous. Nevertheless, an appreciable percentage (1-3%) remains as fibrous asbestos."

There certainly is a considerable difference between 1-3 percent and 97-99 percent.

The National Academy of Sciences report is based on a study conducted by J. R. Lynch for the National Center for Urban and Industrial Health. We are enclosing a copy of his paper in which he states: "... free fibers from brake lining wear seem to be an inconsequential health factor in urban air pollution."

Sincerely,

W. P. Raines
Secretary

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Sponsored by Atlas Asbestos Co., Certain-teed Products Corp., Flintkote Co., GAF Corp., Johns-Manville Corp., National Gypsum Co., Panacon Corp., Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc., and Woodward Corp.