Los Angeles Factory
February 14, 1944

Vandiver Brown,
General Headquarters

Procedure on Lung X-Rays

I have read your letter of February 9th to Mr. Pringle with a great deal of interest and heartily concur in your suggestion regarding the interpretation of X-Rays by Dr. Gardner.

This matter has been discussed at some length with Mr. Westmont and Mr. Legge, and in the Williams' case I suggested that the X-Rays be sent to Dr. Gardner as soon as they had been studied by Dr. Anderson. Instead of this being done immediately another specialist was consulted and as far as I know the X-Rays have not yet been sent to Saranac. Perhaps there is some good reason for this procedure but it seems to me that the time element is important in all such cases and we should take advantage of Dr. Gardner's diagnosis as rapidly as possible when such cases are coming before the Industrial Accident Commission.

This is not meant to be a reflection upon the judgment of anyone concerned, for I realize that we must take every precaution in providing all the medical evidence possible to avoid any bad precedent. However, it is my opinion that we should follow a definite pattern in all such cases so that the necessary steps are taken in the proper order. This will allow us to submit complete medical evidence as promptly as possible to the commission.

It may appear that I am expressing myself rather freely as a newcomer in the organization, but I assure you that my observations are based on a careful analysis of preceding cases and a desire to eliminate as much delay as possible without over-looking any bets. I am sure that Mr. Westmont is considerably worried about the dust situation at Lompoc and welcomes all the help He can receive on this important subject. It would be a wonderful thing if we could find some way to eliminate the fear psycosis of those who work under these conditions and it occurs to me that this might be accomplished through a carefully thought out program educating the workers themselves.

In your capacity as counsel, you are in a position to recommend some procedure if you think it advisable. Any help you can give us will be greatly appreciated.

A. K. Barnes

cc: J. P. Woodard, CSQ
W. E. Pringle, Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro
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