International Chemical Workers Union

HERBERT K. ABRAMS, M. D.
Medical Consultant
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AIR MAIL

Dr. Kenneth W. Smith, Medical Director
Johns-Manville Corporation
22 E. Forthieth St.
New York 16, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Smith:

The International Chemical Workers Union has received the following complaint from their members in Local 1144, Lompoc, California. They say that Dr. Duncan, the plant physician, refuses to release to the worker's personal physician, the chest X-ray films taken by Dr. Duncan. Dr. Duncan will give the doctors only his interpretation of the films. The doctors refuse to accept Dr. Duncan's interpretation without seeing the films.

I think you will agree that it is accepted medical ethics for one physician to furnish another physician X-ray films, reports of examinations and the like, when these are requested in writing by the patient's personal physician accompanied by a signed authorization from the patient.

I will greatly appreciate your informing me what procedure is being followed at the Lompoc plant and what can be done about the situation. I am told this matter is a source of serious concern among the workers.

With personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Herbert K. Abrams, M.D.
Medical Consultant ICWU

HKA/jm

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