International Chemical Workers Union
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1170 TERRACE COURT
GLENCOE, ILLINOIS

December 7, 19

Dr. Kenneth W. Smith, Medical Director
Johns-Manville Corporation
22 .. Fortieth Street
New York 16, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Smith:

This will supplement my letter to you of November 8, inquiring about the problem of "gamma rays" in the control of proper distribution of materials in the manufacture of transite piping at the Johns-Manville plant in Toronto. More recently I have received another inquiry from the people at this plant concerning the dust hazard in connection with the machining of transite pipe. As I understand the situation from our conversation about a year ago, transite pipe contains a mixture of materials including asbestos, silicon dioxide, and cement.

The employees at this plant informed me that recent results of periodic X-ray films taken at the plant showed that a number of employees have developed a lung condition of sufficient proportions to make it necessary for the company to consider transferring these persons to other jobs in the plant. Naturally this has aroused some concern on the part of the workers. They are concerned that they are not being given sufficient information about the gravity of the hazard and, of course, are most concerned that they are being given maximum protection against it.

I would greatly appreciate your describing the situation to me as you see it. I hope that it will be possible to transmit to the workers at this plant information to reassure them that every possible measure is being taken for their protection.

Sincerely yours,

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

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