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IRA I. BROUGHT & ASSOCIATES
CONSULTANTS
1128 EDISON BUILDING
TOLEDO 4, OHIO

May 9, 1957

Mr. Harold Boeschenstein, President
Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation
National Bank Building
Toledo 4, Ohio

Dear Mr. Boeschenstein:

Two serious blows have been dealt by the Asbestos Workers Union during the past several months to the Fiberglas industry. The first blow was outlined in my letter of April 25, 1957 which indicated that a wage premium had been demanded by the New York local in their wage negotiation agenda. This, we were successful in having deleted. The second blow, and a more alarming one, was dealt recently by the union during their Western States Conference held in Oakland, California, which was attended by business agents from all over the western portion of the United States. In the published minutes of their meeting, which was mailed to each of the twenty thousand members, the following statement was made:

"The problems of Asbestosis and Silicosis were discussed at large, stemming from the report of Local No. 16, in which it was revealed that eleven members passed away this year. A large number of the men had definite symptoms of the aforementioned hazards of our trade. Most of the locals in attendance spoke on this vital subject. President Sichles speaking from an International point of view, said the International is compiling facts and figures on this matter.

President Sichles stated further that the regulation requiring the companies to furnish safety equipment still holds. The Navy Yard employees explained the safety precautions taken by the Navy Yards in regard to this matter. At this time a motion was made, seconded and passed that the International continue to investigate the causes of Asbestosis and allied lung ailments caused by fibrous materials, and to determine what measures can be found to combat and prevent these diseases."

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The circulation of this statement to the union membership will, no doubt, cause an increasing amount of alarm throughout the country as to the health hazard. All of this, in my opinion, emphasizes the need for the immediate application of recommendations made in our report of January 15, 1945. In a "nut shell" the recommendations were that every branch sales office should be in intimate and frequent contact with all business agents in their sales territory. The relationship should be sufficiently close so that the branch manager or the industrial salesman would acquire immediate knowledge of unrest brewing in the local which might spread throughout the United States. All business agents are either sales assets or sales liabilities. If the business agent is a friend of the industrial salesman, he will inform him of pending trouble. In my opinion, the industrial salesman wherever located should convey an attitude of cooperative good will to all business agents along with the health program. If trouble or unrest is detected, it should be promptly reported so that remedial steps can be taken.

Very truly yours,

Ira I. Brought

IIBigmw
cc: Mr. Winkle
Mr. Kessler
Mr. Wright
Mr. Burch
Mr. Williams
Mr. Creppe
Mr. Maher

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