RECEIVED
SEP 18 1936
VICE PRESIDENT
SEC. & TREAS. OFFICE

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Waukegan Factory,
Sept. 16, 1936

Ill Legislature

Mr. Vandiver Brown,
General Headquarters.

ILLINOIS OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES ACT,
Health, Comfort and Safety Act

As per your request the writer attended the luncheon held at the Union League Club, Tuesday, September 15th, for the purpose of discussing problems of Illinois industry in connection with the Illinois Occupational Diseases Act and the Health, Comfort and Safety Act.

The meeting was very well attended and was presided over by Mr. James L. Donnelly, Executive Vice President and Dr. Cheavers a member of the committee that worked on the original draft of the bill.

The primary object of the meeting was the endorsement of a resolution which was to be presented to the Board of Directors of the Illinois Manufacturers Association recommending the employment of an assistant to Mr. Donnelly, who would devote his entire time to follow-up of this very important law. It was suggested that the following points should be carefully checked by this man with the assistance of an able committee appointed from industry.

a.

See that men of proper caliber and integrity are appointed to the membership of the Illinois Industrial Commission.

b.

Assist in the formulation of rules and regulations to be used by the Industrial Commission in passing on the Occupational Diseases Act.

c.

To see that unscrupulous persons are not permitted to use this Act as a means of increasing their revenue through the filing of improper cases before the Industrial Commission.

It was pointed out by the chairman that grave danger lies in these new Bills unless proper interpretation is given to the Bills. Improver interpretation on the part of the Industrial Commission would put a very heavy burden on industry.

The resolution was passed and then Mr. Donnelly called attention to the fact that it may be necessary for the Illinois Manufacturers' Association to solicit subscriptions from some of the large industries to carry on this additional work.

The meeting was then thrown open for general discussion and many interesting questions were raised.

(cen)

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/11535/1

It was interesting to note the wide difference of opinion expressed by the various attorneys who were present as representing some of the industries and even the differences of opinion expressed by various doctors representing industry.

One attorney strongly advised the industry not to be in too big a rush to file their notices of acceptance after midnight September 30, 1936, but to wait until all the rules and regulations have been promulgated by the Industrial Commission covering the enforcement of these new laws. Some of the other attorneys strongly urged the filing of a form of acceptance immediately after midnight September 30th. The statement was made that a formal notice of acceptance has been prepared and will be mailed to members of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association in the near future.

Another question which brought forth considerable discussion was the disposition of employees now on the payroll who are doubtless hazards and may become costly compensation cases later. Opinion differed greatly, but Dr. Britton seemed to strike the keynote by stating that a good lot of common sense was required and that he did not believe any manufacturer would deliberately remove from his payrolls at this time men who have been with the Company for years and through no fault of their own are not in 100% perfect physical condition. He advocated a careful study of the men at work to see that the men were put in the least hazardous positions and moreover to see that working conditions were made as healthy as possible and so long as a man was able to work with any degree of satisfaction at all he should be kept on the payroll regardless of the fact that he may later become an expense to the Company.

Dr. Britton stated that in his opinion the labor trouble that would develop due to a general house cleaning at this time on the part of industries in the State of Illinois would cost industry far more money than they would save by dropping men from the payroll who may later become compensation cases. He urged all the manufacturers to have their employees examined by a competent doctor, have them X-Rayed and the films interpreted by an expert. Then place the men in positions where their work will be the least harmful to them.

Dr. Britton further advocated the use of a lot of common sense by the Employment Manager and the doctor in the examination of prospective employees. He stated that if only those who were 100% perfect in every respect were employed, industry would have a tough time trying to operate. It should be the job of industry to not only train the men in their work, but to make every effort to keep them in good physical condition by proper advice from both the Employment Manager and the Company doctor.

Before adjournment the Chairman called attention again to the pamphlet

(ccm)

issued by the Illinois Manufacturers' Association under date of August 5th covering suggestions of the Occupational Diseases committee. I am sure both you and Mr. Williams have a copy of this pamphlet in your files.

Should we not come to some definite decisions as early as possible regarding action which should be taken at Waukegan prior to the date when this Act becomes effective, namely October 1, 1936?

J. P. KOTTCAMP, Mgr.
Waukegan Factories

JPK-ASM

CC to Mr. S. A. Williams, Gen'l Hdqtrs.
Mr. E. M. Voorhees, Gen'l Hdqtrs.

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/11535/3