March 4, 1969

MINUTES
Policy Committee Meeting
Environmental Health Task Force
February 18, 1969

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1. Dr. Wright reported on the inauguration of the mesothelioma study by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences within HEW under the direction of Dr. Paul Kotin.

2. Solon reported on progress of the IIHRP newsletter. First issue out week of February 24.

3. Dr. Wright reported progress on the study of X-rays of all presently-employed J-M personnel. He emphasized need for measuring pulmonary functions of employees.

   ACTION: A) Marchant and Jackson to set up data bank of information compiled during the study.

   B) Dr. Wright to consider steps to be taken if and when an employee's X-ray shows positive.

4. Dr. Wright reported on a successful meeting with the Inland Division of General Motors. Has invited their Medical Director to visit Manville sometime in future.

5. General discussion of Dr. Herb Stockinger appearance in New Orleans, calling asbestos/cement pipe a "suspect item."

   ACTION: A) Dr. Wright to call Stockinger and offer to get together with him to discuss the subject.

   B) Stockinger to be invited by Dr. Wright to visit Research Center to inspect pipe study facilities.

6. Dr. Wright raised question of amount of scientific work done for us by Industrial Hygiene Foundation, which unfortunately is not too well thought of in the scientific community because of its close association with industry. Work by IHF people like Dr. Gross is excellent - too bad it's not better regarded.

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Dr. Wright's feeling is that whatever work we contract to have done, we will want it accepted by the scientific as well as the general community. We must take a hard look at where we place research projects.

ACTION: Group agreed. General assignment -- to keep an eye on this problem.

7. Jobe reported on legislation introduced in Massachusetts banning the use of fiber glass inside heating and air conditioning ducts. Being fought through NIMA.

8. At the last meeting, Dr. Wright had raised subject of need for information on where past decade's large increase in asbestos production has gone -- into fixed or free products. Dr. Pundsack has completed such a study, which shows that most of the increase has gone into fixed or "locked-in" products, like asbestos-cement, brake linings, etc.

9. Solon brought up question of whether or not there are any more potentially harmful uses of asbestos fiber like modeling clay, fire bombs, etc., which we should consider closing out.

ACTION: Solon to discuss with fiber sales people and report.

10. Herb Ball reported on Beaumont and other legal cases pending.

11. Solon brought up continuing disquiet expressed by U.K. asbestos companies with regard to the use of caution labels, even in the States.

ACTION: Solon to write Wilfred Howard, Secretary of Asbestos Information Committee - U.K. that we will use caution labels on shipments to Canada and U.S. Let the chips fall.

12. Van Derbeek expressed feeling that people in plants from Manager on down were not taking environmental control seriously. He specifically mentioned the wearing of masks. He suggested a program be developed to "sell" people on masks and other precautions.

ACTION: Solon and PR group will work with Van Derbeek to develop a program (bulletin boards, posters, etc.) to publicize importance of good environmental control habits. Decided not to use News/Pic.

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13. Solon asked for decision on North American Asbestos Information Committee.

ACTION: J-M will inaugurate. Solon will be first Secretary. (Volunteers always win out!) Name of group to be Asbestos Information Committee - U.S.

14. Solon explained search for freelance writer to do speeches and articles for Dr. Selikoff.

ACTION: Group agreed. Burnett suggested we prepare one basic positive article, keep in the hopper for use with any publication we can interest.

15. May medical meeting at which Dr. Selikoff will present Selikoff/Pundsack paper.

ACTION: Group suggested Pundsack be front row attendee. Smith agreed to arrange.

16. Dr. Wright suggested someone outside J-M do the much-needed dust sample studies of the air in a major metropolitan area.

ACTION: Dr. Wright to find organization that can do the job soon and whose report will be accepted by the scientific community. Burnett believes we should do preliminary work to find out for ourselves what the situation is before we proceed with a full-scale outside study.

17. Burnett re-requested we prepare file of positive articles and comments on asbestos/health.

ACTION: Solon will do.

18. San Francisco Building Department (Mr. Goldberg) investigation of asbestos building products.

ACTION: Burt Jobe volunteered to visit the proper people during up-coming visit to SF. He will:

- suggest they contact Dr. Wright for more information
- let them know of work on asbestos & health being done (IIHRP, etc.)
- see if they have gone any further with national groups.

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19. Karl Lindell has been elected president of OAMA (Salud!). Under his leadership, the group has authorized an additional $400,000 for Dr. Wright's program. The original figure was $250,000. New total is $650,000.

20. Dr. Wright was invited to attend the Annual Meeting on March 13 in Toledo to handle any asbestos/health questions that might be asked - and to have luncheon with the Board that day.

ACTION: Dr. Wright accepted.

21. A list of upcoming medical meetings was distributed and reviewed. Public Relations group making special effort to publicize Dr. Wright's paper to be given at the American Thoracic Society.

Jobe said Dr. Selikoff will speak at a meeting of the Southwest Insulation Contractors Association in Corpus Christi, Texas on April 17. Jobe accompanying Selikoff.

F. J. Solon, Jr.



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