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September 20, 1954

Johns-Manville Products Corp.
200 North Main Street
Manville, New Jersey

Attention: Benjamin F. Stanton, Esq.

In re Johns-Manville ads. Mary Lukasiewicz

COPY

Dear Mr. Stanton:

For the record, this will confirm our conference in my office the evening of September 9, 1954, in connection with the above matter. At that time, you handed me your file therein, and requested that this office reply to Mr. Chase's letter of August 23, 1954.

Because of the imminency of an extended business trip to St. Louis, of which I have already spoken to you, I have not had, and will not have for several weeks, the opportunity to examine the New Jersey workmen's compensation law to determine what rights Mr. Chase's clients may have, assuming that the deceased died as a result of a pneumoconiosis causally related to her employment with you.

However, your file indicates that there is some factual question, at least, with respect to the cause of death. In addition, your file does not indicate whether the deceased left any dependents, although I understand that you believe she did not.

Because of these and other questions, it would appear, even without an examination of the law, that Johns-Manville should, at this point, disclaim any liability in the matter, and Mr. Chase should be so advised. In my opinion, this should be done even though, in the event causal connection between the employment and the death is proved, you may be liable for funeral and last illness expenses, irrespective of any question of dependency.

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I expect to be in telephonic communication with my secretary, Mrs. Buchanec, daily throughout my absence. If you concur with my thinking as expressed herein, I shall appreciate your so advising her, so that I can arrange with her to reply to Mr. Chase's letter.

Very truly yours,

John W. Fritz

JWF:UB
Copies to: Hugh M. Jackson, Esq.
Dr. David T. Dubow
M. F. Naylor, Esq.
Herbert Morton Ball, Esq.
H. J. O'Brien, Esq.