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CONFIDENTIAL

Hospital,
January 28, 1950.

K. V. Lindell

Notification of Occupational Diseases

You will recall that at the A.M.A. Meeting on January 25, 1950 the Association was informed that new Provincial Health Regulations require all physicians to report all cases of occupational disease among their patients. Asbestosis is included in the list of notifiable diseases.

I outlined my reasons for believing that the diagnosis of asbestosis should be made only in the presence of:-

(a) an adequate history of exposure to dust,
(b) positive and typical x-ray shadows,
(c) physical disability.

I also stated that while discussing these regulations with Dr. F. J. Tourangeau, The Director of the Division of Industrial Hygiene for the Province, he had requested me to notify all cases who had only very early x-ray evidence of dust exposure, even before there was any disability. I objected to this because the information could easily get into the hands of a group in Quebec with the result that the Company would be flood with claims for compensation. My recommendation for the present was to do nothing about these notifications.

Yesterday I discussed this matter with Dr. Paul Cartier of Thetford. He and I are in complete agreement for, while this Company has only 12 or 15 cases which might be notifiable, there are over 60 such cases in Thetford. We believe that we should co-operate with Dr. Tourangeau as much as possible, but we do not recommend the notification of these cases at present unless all industries in the Province are doing the same thing.

We believe that the purpose of this regulation is to find new cases of occupational disease and then recommend steps to prevent further exposure. The medical programs of the Asbestos and Thetford clinics are providing more efficient control of asbestosis than would be possible through the government agencies. Because of our zeal for case-finding and prevention of asbestosis we do not want to have this industry unfairly penalized. This could happen if we notified all cases as requested.

Our recommendation is to co-operate with the Division of Industrial Hygiene as much as do the other industries of this Province. May I suggest that this subject should be reviewed at the next A.M.A. Meeting? Dr. Cartier and I would appreciate an invitation to be present when the matter is discussed.

EWS/h.m.

Kenneth W. Smith, M.D.

CC - C. K. McClure
A. T. W. Jackson, JHJ, Box 61

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