Confidential

June 12, 1961

Mr. A. W. Spedding:

Asbestos Textile Institute Meeting
Air Hygiene & Manufacturing Committee
June 8 & 9, 1961

In Attendance

A. J. Smith, H. E. Pole - Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.
Dr. Kenneth Smith, C. Shockley, Atkinson - Johns-Manville Corp.
B. T. Austin - U.S. Rubber Co.
Dr. Myers, Hans Walter - American Asbestos Textile Corp.
J. L. Mitchell - H. K. Porter Co.
Dr. A. C. Stabler, Leon B. Horowitz, John McGinley - Keasbey & Mattison Co.

Discussion

Environmental Health Survey - This program was initiated for the purpose of better understanding asbestosis and to attempt the standardization of medical and environmental techniques among members of the A.T.I. Each member submitted its dust counting technique and existing medical program. These will be reviewed and analyzed in subsequent meetings. A standard Environmental Health Program acceptable to all members should result from this study.

It is apparent that expenditures for environmental health are high since dust counts are frequent and medical examinations with X-ray are made every year or more often. It is the consensus, however, that the money is well spent since it has resulted in reduction of asbestosis cases with resulting claims, as well as reduced problems with unions, state officials and insurance companies.

Asbestosis and Cancer - A meeting of all A.T.I. Committees was called on June 6, 1961, specifically to hear Dr. Kenneth Smith of Johns-Manville report on this subject which is of the utmost importance to all member companies. His report follows.

The British and South Africans have associated lung cancer with asbestosis since 1935. This relationship has been the subject of some discussion in the U.S. only in recent years with opinions pro and con based on inconclusive data and statistics.

Dr. Smith met a Dr. Mancuso of the Ohio Medical Hygiene Dept. at the American Industrial Hygiene Association meeting in Detroit (April 1961) who told him of a study he was conducting on the "Statistical Evaluation of Asbestos and Lung Cancer in a Grebe Lining Factory". He invited Dr. Smith to Ohio to survey records showing 19 lung cancers

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A.T.I. Meeting - contd.

out of 31 asbestos cases, as well as cancer in other parts of the body out of proportion to those that might normally be expected (i.e. - 50 percent more abdominal cancers than in the general public of U.S.).

Dr. Smith was then invited to Washington, D.C. by Dr. Magnuson of the U.S. Public Health Service to attend a meeting with Drs. Wagnild, Sanders and Pat Cartier, the leading experts in the field of pneumoconiosis. They were concerned with the irresponsible reporting on this subject in the U. S. as compared to other countries. Since it is the Public Health Service's responsibility to protect the health of the worker, Dr. Magnuson said that the association of asbestosis and cancer should be thoroughly investigated. Two million dollars will be set aside for a survey of the asbestos industry by the U. S. Public Health Service to include animal studies, environmental studies, dust counting techniques, physical examination of workers, as well as a "Cohort Study" which uses Social Security files to trace complete occupational histories. This study should give factual evidence and eliminate irresponsible reporting. It will be similar to the dietsmite industries studies which resulted in many benefits.

The experience of foreign experts will be solicited in a meeting in England. Public relations are carefully analyzed. In general the study would be "Health of the Asbestos Worker". The union would be taken "into every confidence".

Dr. Smith recommended that the A.T.I. invite the Public Health Service to make this study of the asbestos industry since they will probably do so even without invitation anyway. The Air Hygiene Committee did so recommend and the Board of Governors agreed to submit their recommendation to the individual member companies.

Dr. Smith pointed out that too much irresponsible writing on this subject would harm the industry since the legal profession use it for their own purposes. Not only Workmen's Compensation costs would rise but the more costly Customer Liability cases in Common Law Court would be involved.

Leon B. Horowitz

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cc: H. B. Chiles