Horowitz #14
June 30, 1980

Confidential

September 12, 1961

Mr. A. W. Spedding:

Subject: Asbestos Textile Institute Meeting
Air Hygiene & Manufacturing Committee
September 7 & 8, 1961

In Attendance

R. S. Smith, M. E. Palm - Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.
C. Sackler - Johns-Manville Corp.
D. T. Austin - U. S. Rubber Co.
M. Walter - American Asbestos Textile Corp.
J. L. Mitchell - H. K. Porter Co.
L. B. Horowitz - Keasbey & Mattison Co.

Discussion

Environmental Health Program

The reasons for having an A.T.I. Standard Dust Count Technique should be one or more of the following:

1. Industrial Hygiene - to ascertain air-borne dust concentrations and compare with the maximum permissible limits.

2. To have a basis of comparison between member companies.

3. Publicity - to demonstrate to governmental agencies, unions, insurance companies, etc. that the A.T.I. is cognizant of the potential health problem and is doing something about it.

It was agreed that the Greenburgh-Smith impinger would be the standard instrument for air sampling for dust counts. Member companies could continue using their existing instruments but all agreed to check their results against the standard method.

Technicians who actually perform the air sampling and dust counts for the member companies are invited to our next meeting in order to establish a standard dust counting technique.

The Board of Governors have agreed to invite company industrial physicians to one meeting each year for discussion of mutual health problems.

Study by U. S. Public Health Service

Dr. Kenneth Smith of Johns-Manville Co. reviewed the events leading to the proposed invitation of the Public Health Service, by the A.T.I., to conduct a study of the asbestos industry.

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A.T.I. Meeting - contd.

Mr. R. R. Porter objected to this proposal. He said that it would be a mistake to invite the P.H.S. without the agreement of all of the asbestos industry other than textiles. He also questioned the publicity which would accompany such an investigation, the method of measuring dust concentration and the "probable" bias of the investigating agency.

It was the consensus of those at this meeting that the rest of the asbestos industry should concur with the A.T.I. before this invitation is extended to the P.H.S. Dr. Smith explained that only the textile industry was contacted because of the exposure to pure asbestos; although they intend to study the whole industry. He repeated the reasons why he thought the A.T.I. should invite the P.H.S. to study the industry as follows:

1. There is much erroneous thinking and irresponsible reporting in technical, hygiene and medical literature concerning asbestosis and its relation to cancer.

2. We must avoid studies by State agencies (and Labor Unions) since they cannot possibly conduct a complete epidemiological study and thereby will come to erroneous conclusions.

3. Because of the stigma of "cancer", irresponsible reporting must be eliminated to avoid the high cost of compensation and product liability litigations.

4. This survey should be made by the U. S. Public Health Service in order to determine what is Asbestosis? How to define it? What it is not? etc.

5. The P.H.S. will conduct an unbiased survey. They have the money and trained personnel to establish the truth concerning asbestos and its relation to lung disease. The asbestos industry would get the maximum cooperation which they would not enjoy with the many state agencies. The U.S.P.H.S. report would be used by all authorities including state agencies. This would eliminate diverse and opposing conclusions by the different state agencies.

Leon B. Horowitz

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