CONFIDENTIAL MEMO

DISCUSSION WITH ROGER HACKNEY, KARL LINDELL AND IVAN SABOURIN, SUBJECT: SELIKOFF 9/30/66

Messrs. Lindell and Sabourin reported to Roger Hackney, in my presence, on the highlights of their discussions yesterday evening when they were the dinner guests of Dr. and Mrs. Irving Selikoff. The invitation to dinner at the Selikoffs' had been advanced in Copenhagen.

Prior to ~~getting into~~ discussing the dinner and attendants conversation, Mr. ~~Lindell~~ Hackney quizzed Mr. Sabourin at some length concerning the impression that Dr. Selikoff was "disgusted with the publicity emanating from the asbestos-cancer research and is considering giving up the whole thing". This impression is erroneous. What actually happened, according to Mr. Sabourin, was that Dr. Selikoff had telephoned him on September 8, from New York after he (Selikoff) had first seen the CHEMICAL WEEK article. Selikoff ~~expressed~~ stated that he was dismayed with the inaccuracies and sensationalism in the article. This was what he was trying to convey to Mr. Sabourin ~~and~~ that he completely disassociated himself with the article. As far as the asbestos-cancer research is concerned, this is Selikoff's "cause celebre" and he has not said anything that would indicate that he is considering disassociating himself from that.

Selikoff plans to drop his private practice within the next year and concentrate all of his time on research and on teaching at Mt. Sinai. He will continue, however, to be the doctor for the Asbestos Workers Union.

Selikoff stated that he has several additional medical papers (on asbestos) that he should have published, but he "fears to do so", because of the "sensational reporting" that the press may give them. This comment evidently was in reference to CHEMICAL WEEK'S article.

Selikoff stated that as a result of his disgust over the CHEMICAL WEEK article, he does not plan to go to Japan for an upcoming medical conference. Subsequently, Ken Smith said that he believes Selikoff lacks the finances to go to Japan. Karl Lindell said that the Japan conference is being chaired by the same English doctor who "cut Selikoff down to size in New York a few years ago" and that this, most likely, is Selikoff's motive for staying away.

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Selikoff stated that he does not know whether <u>all</u> asbestos bodies actually contain asbestos or orginate from asbestos; or whether <u>any</u> asbestos bodies really constitute a threat to health.

Messrs. Lindell and Sabourin differ as to why Dr. Selikoff expressed such great interest in the purpose and constitution of the Q.A.M.A. Scientific Committee. Sabourin thinks Selikoff was "fishing" for an invitation to join the committee "re money". Lindell feels (and simply from hearing the account of the conversation with Selikoff, I am inclined towards Lindell's view) "that Selikoff wants his ego flattered by having the Scientific Committee acknowledge that he is "the world's greatest expert on asbestos and health". As a result, Lindell is considering having the next meeting of the Scientific Committee held in New York City and arranging for Dr. Wright to pay a courtesy call on Dr. Selikoff.

Also of interest to me was the fact that the Q.A.M.A. currently is budgeting $200,000 a year for its health program. The breakdown is roughly as follows:

McGill Survey	-	$ 70,000
Executive Secretary, Travel, Office Expenses	-	$ 60,000 (30 + 15 + 15)
Committee Honoraria	-	$ 25,000
Committee Travel and Expenses	-	$ 15,000

Karl also said that the Scientific Committee feels it should have a "blank check" to authorize research at various colleges and universities, without first clearing the individual requests with Q.A.M.A.

W. P. Raines

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