To: E. A. Gervais

Harry Burris

...ersation with Dr. Hajjar
...esday, April 15, 1958

After reading E. M. Jac...on's letter dated April 10, 1958, Dr. Hajjar suggested the following:

1. That I talk to Harry Burris in an effort to determine his attitude toward J-M and particularly with respect to his willingness to return to work if his doctor gives consent.

2. That he (Dr. Hajjar) talk with Dr. C. Brennan (Harry's physician) in an effort to get his diagnosis and opinions. Also, if possible, to get from Dr. Brennan Dr. Taylor's (specialist) diagnosis and findings.

3. Locate and arrange as soon as possible for another specialist to examine Harry.

4. Meet and report on Thursday night.

Conversation with Mr. & Mrs. Harry Burris
Wednesday, April 16, 1958

Both Harry and his wife are very upset about this matter. Mrs. Burris, a very nervous, high-strung woman, is condemning J-M and Dr. Hajjar for Harry's condition. She bitterly, and in a sense maliciously, belittles and berates anyone associated with J-M, who knew or might have known that Harry, three, four, or five years ago, had signs of pulmonary fibrosis and didn't tell him. Dr. Brennan has told her that x-rays as far back as 1952 or 53 show evidence of this condition of fibrosis, and expresses surprise that Harry was not told of it and given an opportunity to decide for himself as to whether or not he would continue to work in an asbestos plant.

Harry is not quite as strong in his condemnation for J-M. His attitude is rather one of acceptance that what he has he has, and crying about it is not going to change his condition. Naturally he is depressed to think that his working days are over. He had rather hoped to retire from J-M and do a little carpenter work on the side in his remaining years of a normal life span. But now, because of his condition, the doctors have told him that real work of any kind is, and will be out of the question. He still has a cough, although it is much better now than it has been for many months, but he still

as difficulty getting his breath, esp[illegible] ype
such as walking upstairs, etc.

He is presently required to stand on his h[illegible] ning a[illegible] ugh until he brings up a tablespoon or more of fluid. [illegible] fo[illegible] will[illegible] to go to work, he says he will try it if his doctor is not opp[illegible] t[illegible] it, but not until he can stop this standing on his head treatment. H[illegible] ys that it takes him about a half an hour to complete it, and that it tire[illegible] him so that he has to go back to bed and rest. He is also fearful that the dust in the plant will irritate his condition, make him cough, and further aggravate his heart condition. He is taking digitoxin for his heart.

Harry realizes that his job with us is such that the small amount of dust that he may be exposed to in the few years until retirement will not alter his lung condition too much, so he, therefore, is not steadfastly opposed to returning if he can.

Another problem, of course, that bothers Harry is that of money. Doctors' bills and prescription costs have been high, and even hospital fees have had to be paid so that their savings have been exhausted. Relatives are assisting them at the present time, but they can't keep it up very long.

I was very frank with Harry and Mrs. Burris. I told them that J-M could not, and would not accept any claim for compensation without thorough investigation, and substantiating medical evidence. Investigations in cases such as this may, and probably will take time before a decision can be made. But because there is a time lag, it should not be construed to mean that J-M is trying to evade the responsibility it has in its employees. J-M is prepared and willing to accept its liability and pay injured employees in accordance with the laws of the state. We at J-M are sorry that such cases arise, but when they do, and it seems that some are inevitable, we have to be realistic about them. Pulmonary fibrosis does not necessarily mean permanent total disability. Yes, it may mean impairment of lung function and, therefore, an adjustment in living and working activities, but certainly not an immediate shortening of one's life span..

As for the monetary situation, the only thing I could say was that all of us at J-M that have anything to do with such cases will make every effort to reach a decision as soon as possible.

/s/ Warren J. Brown

(C O P Y)