FILE NAME: Metropolitan Life (ML)

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-: M E M O R A N D U M :-

TO: Dr. Wheatley

FROM: Miss Reilly

DATE: June 19, 1944

Attached are copies of the surveys made by Mr. Fehnel of the Johnson's Company mines and mills in 1930 and of the new mill in March 1931. The dust concentrations found were much higher than the allowable concentration of five million particles per cubic foot as established by the U.S. Public Health Service for dust in asbestos mills. Although there was an improvement in the new mill, the concentrations in the crusher department and the screening department were still too high.

Among six men physically examined two showed first degree asbestosis but none of the men appeared to have tuberculosis.

The sanitary conditions in the plant were rather poor and it was noticed that there was an unusual degree of carelessness among the employees in spitting on the floor. Housing conditions in Thetford Mines were also poor. Since the war the mills and mines have been operating 24 hours a day. The increased work causing a corresponding increase in the production of dust, and the lack of rest may produce a decreased resistance among the employees which may influence the incidence of tuberculosis.

If it is advisable Mr. Fehnel can arrange to go to Thetford Mines to make a recheck survey of the Johnson's Company properties. If possible, it might be well to include a survey of living conditions of employees.

Reilly

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