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Letters & Summary of Report

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NOTES

Brakes HEW/1967

Draft -- Suggested Letter to Ron Linton

June 13, 1967

Mr. Ron Linton, Chairman
Task Force on Environmental Health
and Related Problems
U. S. Department of Health, Education
and Welfare
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Linton:

On page seven of the recently-issued report of your Task Force is a statement asserting that the wearing of automobile brakes "has increased the public's exposure to asbestos particles."

We know that this statement has appeared in certain journals as an untested hypothesis. However, actual tests of asbestos brake linings, under conditions duplicating the wearing of brakes, performed in our research laboratory have not produced detectable asbestos particles in the surrounding ambient air. To our knowledge there have been no published reports from other laboratories, including those of the United States Public Health Service, which do show such particles.

We are naturally greatly concerned with this subject and interested in keeping abreast of the facts. We should, therefore, appreciate knowing the source of your information.

Very truly yours;

PRODUCED
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SUMMARY AND EVALUATION

Subject: Report to the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare by the Task Force on Environmental Health and Related Problems. Mention of asbestos. Of interest and importance.

Evaluation: This long (126 pages) report includes the flat statement that the wearing of automobile brakes "has increased the public's exposure to asbestos particles...which may promote lung cancer over long periods of time." Although the voluminous report covers every aspect of environmental health, the allegation about asbestos was picked up by the United Press International and made part of the wire story, which is attached. The press release issued by HEW is also attached.

Authors: Linton, R. M., Chairman, and the five members of the Task Force.

Not Printed: Issued by Department of Health, Education and Welfare, June 12, 1967.

Title: "A Strategy for a Livable Environment"

Summary: As given in one paragraph.

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RECEIVED
JUN 13 1967

June 13, 1967

TO: F. J. Solon, Jr.
K. V. Lindell
H. M. Jackson
A. C. Smith

RE: ASBESTOS AND BRAKE LININGS

Yesterday the Federal Government released to the press the 126 page report to the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, by the Task Force on Environmental Health and Related Problems.

On page 7 of this report specific mention is made of the relationship between the wearing of brake linings and lung cancer.

Although the HEW news release that accompanied the long document did not mention this reference to asbestos and brake linings, the United Press International did pick it up (presumably from the full report) and did include it in their wire story about the report of the Task Force.

Since we have seen some evidence, through our own research activities, that would seem to refute the allegation that asbestos gets into the ambient air, in any significant quantities, through the wearing of brake linings, we wish to add this item to our agenda for the Task Force meeting at 2:30 P.M. next Tuesday.

Attached are the evaluation sheet, the cover of the 126 page report, page 7 from the report, the U.P.I. wire story and the HEW news release. Also I am attaching a Hill & Knowlton "Environmental Health Unit Memorandum" concerning the above-mentioned report.


W. F. Raines

wpr/eb
atts.

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