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EMPLOYEE RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
MEDICAL DIVISION
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

November 8, 1966

TO: ALL PLANT PHYSICIANS
FROM: C. A. D'ALONZO, M.D.

EXHIBIT # *Karrh-11*
DATE *12-19-86*
MASTROIANNI & FORMANGLI, INC.
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTERS

Dr. Zahn and I believe that the following may be of interest to you:

1. ASBESTOS - During the past year, a report was sent to you outlining the alleged increasing incidence and concern over asbestosis, mesothelioma, and other related carcinomas in people with relatively minor exposure to asbestos. We are enclosing two more obviously controversial articles on this subject, presenting both sides of the question, for your consideration.

In an effort to define our problem in this area and to develop the necessary preventive measures, where indicated, we are asking you to provide us with the following information and to return it to us as soon as possible.

- A. How many full-time insulators do you have on your plant?
- B. How many employees do part-time insulating?
(a) What proportion of the time?
- C. List the (three) most prevalent type of insulating material used.
- D. Are they doing any spraying of insulating materials at your location?

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E. Give the number of each of the following your plant has experienced, if any:

- (a) Asbestosis
- (b) Mesothelioma
- (c) Carcinomas among insulators

F. List briefly any preventive measures or safety equipment required in your location when:

- (a) sawing insulating materials
- (b) removing obsolete insulation
- (c) spraying insulating materials

2. PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST - With the increasing incidence of chronic bronchitis, emphysema, lung cancer, etc., it is imperative that we obtain as much information as possible on our employees' pulmonary status to:

- A. guide us in providing the necessary preventive measures.
- B. accumulate data for possible legal action in the future.

In connection with this point, a pilot study is underway at Chambers Work, using equipment and tests recommended by Dr. Tomashefski, a specialist in pulmonary function screening tests at the Ohio State University Medical Center, to determine our best plan of action. In the future, definite recommendations will be forthcoming concerning equipment, tests, and programs.

It is suggested that you refrain from purchasing any expensive equipment or initiating any definitive program until such recommendations are received, so to insure a uniform company-wide policy.

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3. "SYMMETREL" - By now, I am hopeful that the Pharmaceutical Division of our I. & B. Department, has sent each of you a packet of information regarding "Symmetrel", Du Pont's new anti-influenza drug. I wish to stress to each of you that this drug is for the prevention of influenza, and not a cure. It appears to be effective primarily against the A₂ strain.

We had a meeting today with their Marketing Division. You will each shortly receive a communication from Mr. Harry B. Roos, dealing with the central purchasing of this drug, and which will give your plant the wholesale rate. I am sure that the communication, which you will receive from Mr. Roos, will be self-explanatory and will arrive shortly.

4. AMERICAN BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE - For those of you who may be preparing for the American Board of Occupational Medicine, we wish to call your attention to the "First Western Institute on Occupational Medicine," from March 20-25, 1967, at the University of California, Berkeley, California.

Dr. Tabershaw has discussed this course with us and it is made as practical and complete as possible with the view of preparing one for the Board Examinations.

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Taking Giant Steps

Two chemical process companies took giant steps toward diversifying into the oceanography field last week, and two paper companies with combined sales of nearly \$1 billion/year reached a tentative agreement to merge.

(1) Bendix Corp. (Detroit) expanded its oceanic activities by acquiring for an undisclosed amount of stock Marine Advisers (La Jolla, Calif.), producer of oceanographic instruments for petroleum and utility companies, state and federal agencies, and firms engaged in scientific programs.

(2) Fluor Corp. (Los Angeles) and B. L. McFarland and Associates (Fort Worth and Midland, Tex.), a group of five companies involved in offshore and onshore drilling operations, have agreed to merge, subject to stockholders' approval. The McFarland group operates five offshore drilling rigs in the Gulf of Mexico.

(3) A tentative agreement to merge has been reached by U.S. Plywood Corp. (New York) and Champion Papers, Inc. (Hamilton, O.). It is subject to both directors' and stockholders' approval. The corporate identities of both companies will be preserved.

Reducing Gas Rates

The Federal Power Commission has ordered El Paso Natural Gas Co. and Transwestern Pipeline Co. to reduce by \$17 million/year the price of natural gas in the southern California market.

The rate cut stems from the July 26 decision in which FPC turned down the application of Gulf Pacific Pipeline Co. (a Tennessee subsidiary) to supply gas to the Los Angeles area (CIV, Aug. 6, p. 20). Gulf Pacific last week filed for a rehearing.

El Paso and Transwestern were told they would have to lower their rates to reflect the lower costs resulting from the bigger deliveries possible in the expanded system. At the same time, FPC said it would conduct further proceedings to decide if customers should get additional benefits resulting from more liberal depreciation allowances.

FPC has given the companies 45 days to show cause why the reduction should not take place.

Sources of airborne asbestos

- Asbestos-lined ducts used in centrally air-conditioned buildings.
- Asbestos ducts and insulation in home central-heating plants.
- Motor vehicle brake linings and clutch plates.
- Auto undercoatings.
- Asbestos ceiling and floor tiles.
- Asbestos shingles and sidings.
- Construction and demolition
 - Fitting, cutting, and removing asbestos-filled wallboards and floorings, piping and insulation.
- Incineration of asbestos-filled scrap.
- Improperly filtered effluent from asbestos processing plants.

Asbestos: Awaiting 'Trial'

The asbestos industry—whose end products are valued at more than \$500 million/year—may be in for a shake-up. It could come in the form of federal legislation limiting the use of asbestos, because asbestos has been accused—though not yet “convicted”—as a significant health hazard. Probable contender for asbestos markets: plastics.

Recent studies have convinced U.S. Public Health Service specialists and other medical authorities that about 40% of all Americans have mild, chronic cases of asbestosis, even though most of them never worked directly with asbestos.

Unlike other airborne dust particles, asbestos fibers have the ability—almost as much as activated carbon—to absorb polycyclic hydrocarbons and arsenicals. Furthermore, says USPHS, in the past 10 years the asbestos-related cancer rate has increased sixfold.

The inference: While the average asbestos worker is well protected, the man on the street is not. The 3-μm asbestos fibers in his lungs can come from a variety of sources (table, above).

And medical experts say there's no way to assess hydrocarbon content in those lung deposits.

American Cancer Society researchers feel certain there is a synergistic relationship among airborne asbestos, smoking and lung cancer. They reason that the nondegradable, hydrocarbon-soaked fibers may well be a constant source of lung irritation.

PHS officials think it may take them up to five years to establish asbestos' true role as an air pollutant. However, Congress may act before the research is finished. Says Representative Robert Watkins (R., Pa.): “We've seen enough evidence already. Asbestos will never get a clean bill of health. With just a little more data we'll move for controls and strict laws.”

Some form of asbestos control is in the offing, public health officials are certain, if only part of a larger clean-air program. However, there is the danger that Congress may enact rigorous controls on the quantity of asbestos that could be used.

In that case both Canada and U.S. asbestos products manufacturers would be hard hit. Of the five forms of asbestos mined today, chrysotile asbestos holds the predominant market position because of its insulating and processing qualities. Canada produces more than 80% of the chrysotile asbestos used in the U.S. In both countries, a number of serious dislocations would occur.

At present, there is no known material that could fill all of asbestos' strategic roles. On the other hand, should federal controls merely call for higher standards for binders and shielings, that would spark a rise of new products, with plastics taking the lead.

Reason, say industry spokesmen, present polymer technology could easily turn up products to replace asbestos in most end-uses.

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LETTERS

Asbestos Safety Reaffirmed

TO THE EDITOR: The article titled "Asbestos: Awaiting Trial" (*CW*, Sept. 10, p. 32) contains many inaccuracies, which have led to erroneous assumptions and false conclusions. Briefly, the facts are these:

(1) Asbestos is a uniquely useful product serving the needs of modern man and society, and it is not likely to be replaced by economically feasible synthetic polymers, or anything else, in the foreseeable future.

(2) No published reports, even the most speculative, support the generalized statements in your article regarding health effects of possible exposure to asbestos.

(3) There is no basis for the suggestion that Congress "may act" regarding asbestos use, for no such proposals are being considered by Congress. We are informed that the congressman quoted as predicting action disclaims any knowledge of health evidence relating to asbestos or of proposals to control its use.

(4) No evidence exists to show that asbestos poses health risks for the general public or to show that even 1% of Americans have "mild chronic asbestosis," much less the 40% figure you give in your article.

(5) Regarding your list of "sources of airborne asbestos," there are no data to support the contention in your article that the "man on the street" is exposed to asbestos from these sources, or indeed that these sources contribute asbestos to the ambient air.

(6) We know of no data to support your claim of a sixfold increase in so-called "asbestos-related cancer."

As you doubtless realize, the proper conduct of our business requires us to keep abreast of scientific developments regarding asbestos, both medical and technical. It is our opinion that synthetic polymers are not likely in the

foreseeable future to completely replace asbestos in the many applications for which it is now used. Any synthetics would have to prove superior to natural asbestos and be economically competitive.

As to health aspects, in June of this year the U.S. Surgeon General appeared before the Senate Public Works Subcommittees on Air and Water Pollution, with Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine as chairman, to discuss various problems relating to air-pollution abatement. Surgeon General William Stewart enumerated a number of substances in common use, including plastics and asbestos, about which he said: "The public health hazards that may arise from these aspects of environmental contamination have not been adequately documented. In each instance further investigation is needed to determine whether health is indeed threatened and what control measures may be necessary."

In these days when all substances in our air and water and even the food we eat are constantly under scrutiny, as to their effects on the public, the fact that asbestos is among the subjects of investigation is not surprising. In fact, we have always supported and will continue to support investigations by the U.S. Public Health Service and other research scientists.

ROGER HACKNEY
Vice-President
John-Manville Corp.
New York

TO THE EDITOR: In reference to your article, "Asbestos: Awaiting Trial" (*Sept. 10, p. 32*), we know of no scientific evidence supporting the statement that "40% of all Americans have mild, chronic cases of asbestosis."

Even in the asbestos industry, where more is known about exposure levels than among the general population, there is improving knowledge about the health effects of exposure to asbestos.

With the cooperation of labor and industry, the Division of Occupational Health has under way a long-range, in-depth study to answer this question, as well as to develop better criteria for the safe handling and manufacture

of asbestos. In the meantime, however, the division will continue to promote the application of known control methods so that the workplace can be kept as healthy as possible.

MURRAY C. BROWN, M.D.
Chief
Division of Occupational Health
Department of Health, Education
& Welfare
Public Health Service
Washington, D.C.

CW is pleased to set the record straight. Some of those interviewed apparently drew unwarranted conclusions from insufficient and dubious data.—Ed.

MEETINGS

Ann. of Official Analytical Chemists, annual meeting, Twin Bridges Marriott Motor Hotel, Washington, D.C., Oct. 10-13.

Technical International symposium on automation in analytical chemistry, Statler-Hilton Hotel, New York, Oct. 17-19.

Drug, Chemical & Allied Trades Assn., annual meeting, Hollywood Beach Hotel, Hollywood, Fla., Oct. 19-22.

Commercial Chemical Development Assn., discussion of packaging, Drake Hotel, Chicago, Oct. 26-28.

National Assn. of Purchasing Agents, Chemical Group, annual fall conference, Continental Plaza Hotel, Chicago, Oct. 27.

Society of Engineering Sciences, fourth technical meeting, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, Oct. 31-Nov. 2.

American Society for Metals, national metal congress and exposition, McCormick Place, Chicago, Oct. 31-Nov. 3.

Parental Drug Assn., annual convention, Statler-Hilton Hotel, New York, Nov. 1-4.

Fertilizer industry round-table conference, Maydower Hotel, Washington, D.C., Nov. 2-4.

The Society of the Plastics Industry, 11th plastics film, sheeting and coated fabric conference, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York, Nov. 9-12; conference on cellular plastics in transportation, Edgewater Beach Hotel, Chicago, Nov. 15-17.

The Franklin Institute Research Laboratories, fourth annual symposium on the organic-solid state, Philadelphia, Nov. 14.

General Atomic Division of General Dynamics Corp., and Air Force Office of Scientific Research, fundamentals of nuclear interactions, San Diego, Calif., Dec. 14-16.

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CW welcomes expressions of opinion from readers. The only requirement: that they be pertinent, as brief as possible.

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