

John-Manville

Internal Correspondence

All Environmental Com. Members
& Division Managers Group

July 18, 1973

F. J. Solon, Jr. - 4 North

File and Chrono

IMPORTANT!
LETTER TO DR. SELIKOFF



*W. R. Goodwin	A. B. Marchant
F. H. May	E. F. Harriner, M.D.
W. P. Albe	P. A. Martinson
J. S. Autry	S. J. McDuff
J. F. Ball	J. A. McKinney
L. J. Bartolanzo	H. B. Moreno
R. M. Billings	R. E. Naylor
L. R. Blair	R. Nebel
E. P. Burke	P. C. Nikitovich
R. P. Carter	G. E. Parker
A. L. Cini	F. L. Pundsack
R. H. Cuje	W. B. Reitze ←
I. M. Dienatbach	Ivan Sabourin
J. B. Dorsey	S. W. Schulmeyer
E. M. Fenner	C. E. Shepperly
W. F. Goodwin	R. V. Smith
M. Harris	T. R. Smith
N. W. Hendry	F. J. Solon, Jr.
J. E. Hesse	J. J. Spangenberg
D. E. Hillier	W. C. Streib
W. A. Hindon	C. J. Sulewski
J. R. N. Hutcheson	W. L. VanDerbeek
M. B. Jamin	C. W. Wattson
H. R. Keefe	H. J. White
C. C. Kaller	W. C. Winblad
G. P. Loubert	F. A. Winterhalter
D. H. Lyons	G. W. Wright, M.D.

You will be interested I'm sure in reading the attached letter from Dr. Hilton Lewinsohn and Stephen Holmes of Turner & Newall to Dr. Irving Selikoff, calling his attention to misleading statements he made, using Lewinsohn-Holmes material, at a presentation in Boston in late May.

For background, this letter is a direct result of our recent trip to England (see trip report attached). Dr. George Wright critiqued and commented on the various drafts leading up to this final version.

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I call your attention to the first two paragraphs especially. The transcript came from Ed Fenner and Bill Reitze's tapes made at the conference which we forwarded to Dr. Lewinsohn and then followed with our visit to the British group to personally convey the request of George Wright and ourselves that a strong letter of dissent be sent to Selikoff.

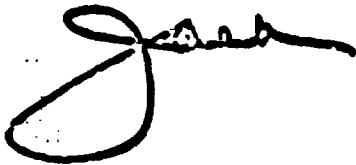
The second paragraph has statements as strong as any I've seen from professionals to professionals.

Note also that copies of the letter were sent to Dr. Marcus Key, Assistant Surgeon General and Director of NIOSH, and to the heads of AIHA and ACGIH, the two organizations who sponsored the Boston meeting at which Dr. Selikoff spoke.

AIA/NA will forward copies of the letter to Secretary of Labor Peter Brennan and Assistant Secretary in charge of OSHA John Stender.

All this by way of letting important people in government and the professions know the kind of misleading acts Dr. Selikoff continues to commit.

This is the kind of positive aggressive approach we intend to take on our environmental affairs problems.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. A. ...' with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

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FILE MEMORANDUM

REPORT OF TRIP TO UNITED KINGDOM
June 23 - July 1, 1973

Subject trip was made in company with Ivan Sabourin, our Canadian legal-environmental counsel; John H. Marsh of Raybestos-Manhattan in his capacity as President of the Asbestos Information Association/North America; and Matthew M. Swetonic, Executive Secretary of the AIA/NA.

Purpose of the trip related almost entirely to the reopening of the OSHA Asbestos Standard in the U.S. We wanted to meet with members of the British medical group, with British government officials and British asbestos industry personnel to review the situation and prepare in advance for what we believe will be quite a rigorous confrontation at the public hearings on the asbestos standard which are coming up in the near future.

Following are brief comments on the meetings we held in the course of our stay in the United Kingdom.

1. Meeting (June 25, 1973) with Dr. Milton Lewinsohn and Stephen Holmes of Turner Brothers Asbestos; Alex Cross of Cape Asbestos; Michael Howe and Wilfred Howard of Turner & Newall.

For background -- Dr. Lewinsohn had issued some preliminary figures on a re-study he is making of workers at the Rochdale, England plant of TBA. Dr. Selikoff had put these figures into a graph which he presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Industrial Hygiene Association in Boston last May. Selikoff said these new figures changed the entire picture on asbestos standards and that the present OSHA standard places "U.S. asbestos workers at serious risk of irreversible, often fatal disease and in my (Selikoff's) opinion, it should immediately be reconsidered."

We had forwarded to Dr. Lewinsohn a few days prior to our meeting, a verbatim transcript of Dr. Selikoff's presentation at Boston with a copy of the slide he had used there which he said had been made from Dr. Lewinsohn's data.

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We reviewed this at our meeting and handed out to attendees a copy of Dr. George Wright's memo to me on the Lewinsohn-Selikoff matter.

We suggested that Dr. Lewinsohn and Steve Holmes, who had worked with Dr. John Knox of TBA in the original study of Rochdale workers, prepare a joint letter to Dr. Selikoff on this matter. This they readily agreed to do. Matter of fact, their first draft was handed to us two days later for review and forwarding to George Wright for comment before final drafting and mailing to Selikoff.

The British group are more than unhappy about this action by Selikoff. The present British Asbestos Regulations are based largely on the original studies at the Rochdale plant of TBA. Selikoff's misuse of Lewinsohn's preliminary figures places the British regulations, the British Occupational Hygiene Society and H.M. Factory Inspectorate in an extremely poor light.

The British intend to take this matter right down to the wire -- matter of fact, David Hills, Managing Director of TBA, had a personal hand in drafting some of the most direct statements in the letter to Selikoff.

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2. Meeting (June 26, 1973) with Drs. David Muir and John Davis, Institute of Occupational Medicine, Edinburgh, Scotland.

We reviewed the Lewinsohn-Selikoff matter. Muir and Davis were glad to be informed and particularly pleased that a letter was being written directly to Selikoff. They drove us to their experimental farm on the outskirts of Edinburgh to see the animal experimental work they are carrying on, initially with amosite fiber, under sponsorship of the Asbestosis Research Council.

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3. Dinner Meeting (June 27, 1973) with Dr. J. Corbett McDonald.

We reviewed the Lewinsohn-Selikoff matter with Dr. McDonald who is on sabbatical leave from McGill University, Montreal. He was in full accord with our strategy and thought the idea of a strong letter to Selikoff from Lewinsohn-Holmes was excellent.

As a matter of information, Dr. McDonald's sabbatical involves international work on population growth, requiring extensive travel.

Even though on sabbatical, he still directs the work of his group at McGill. So, John Marsh told him of the pure chrysotile exposure at the R/M Stratford plant, asked if Corbett's McGill group, led by his wife, Allison, might tackle the study. He sparked to the idea and a meeting was arranged the week of July 8 between R/M and the McGill group to explore possibilities of such an epidemiological study.

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4. Communications Meeting (June 27, 1973) between
Asbestos Information Committee of U.K. (Howe, Cross,
Howard, Wright) and Asbestos Information Association/
North America (Marsh, Swetonic, Solon, Sabourin).

We reviewed the Levinsohn-Holmes draft of a letter to Selikoff and immediately dispatched a copy to George Wright for his review and comment.

AIC is increasing its budget next fiscal year from 50,000 to 80,000 pounds (130,000 to 208,000 approximately). They plan to spend 26,000 pounds (\$68,000) for ads in their national dailies and in specialized publications on fire protection.

We had a preliminary discussion about a tri-partite conference of AIC, AIA/NA and OAMA sometime in the future.

The AIC is producing a new movie - "Asbestos At Work", which will be issued under the name of the Asbestosis Research Council.

We learned from Alex Cross that Stuart Luxon's job had changed with H. M. Factory Inspectorate. Formerly Director of Industrial Hygiene Service, he is now Deputy Chief Inspector -- a lateral and slightly upward move.

Dr. Walter Smither of Cape Asbestos who joined us for lunch, said he had received an invitation from Dr. Selikoff to become a member of the Steering Committee for a New York Academy of Sciences-sponsored meeting on the Biological Effects of Asbestos to be held October 7-11, 1974. Dr. Smither has mixed emotions about holding such a meeting only a year after the Lyon Meeting on the same subject. I suggested that Selikoff is calling this new meeting because he was unhappy about the Lyon Meeting not going his way. The group agreed this was probably so.

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5. Meeting (June 27, 1973) with Stuart G. Luxon,
Deputy Chief Inspector, H.M. Factory Inspectorate
(his wife, Mrs. Maitland Luxon), Sabourin, Marsh,
Swetonic, Solon.

Luxon was the British government official who, at the request of Sabourin and Swetonic, appeared as an expert witness at the March 1972 OSHA Hearings on the Asbestos Standard.

At this dinner meeting, Luxon told me his recent promotion had been brought about largely by Great Britain's entry into the Common Market, and gives him international responsibility for Safety and Health for the U.K.

Luxon believes that he would still be the one British official to come to the U.S. public hearings on asbestos standard reopening should the testimony of H. M. Factory Inspectorate be needed.

He believes we in the U.S. should be actively seeking negative evidence to show why it is not necessary to go below 2 fibers per cc in our asbestos standard.

He dwelt at some length on the study being carried out by his Government of the entire British asbestos industry (10,000 workers) to determine if their goal-standard of two fibers is sufficient. Though they may get indications in the meantime, the final determination from the study is at least 20 years away.

When Luxon learned from John Marsh that the Raybestos-Manhattan 50-year old plant in Stratford, Connecticut was a pure chrysotile exposure except for the past 9 or 10 years -- and that the Bendix brake lining plant at Troy, New York was also pure chrysotile exposure, he urged us to "get the show on the road" as soon as possible and begin crash studies of workers at these two locations.

Luxon suggested, to set Selikoff back somewhat and to take the pressure off the asbestos industry, that J-M call the members of the industry together, set a time limit and say that by such-and-such date (long before the July 7, 1976 deadline), J-M will announce that all its plants are at the 2 fibers per cc standard or that workers are provided good protection at those locations we're still working on. He believes the press will be interested in such a story.

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Luxon says it's too bad we don't have a better dialogue with high labor union officials as they do in the U.K. In his work, he said, he has found his off-the-record dialogue with both industry and organized labor has been of inestimable value.

To get the total rationale behind the BOHS recommendation that the British asbestos standard not be changed at this time, Luxon suggested we write:

Dr. Dereck Turner, Secy.
British Occupational Hygiene Society
BP Research Center
Sunbury-on-Thames
London, England

and ask for documentation.

He said that H.M. Factory Inspectorate was taking the recommendation of the BOHS and was not reopening the British Asbestos Standard at this time.

Luxon said if we wanted him to come over for the upcoming OSHA Hearings, it would have to be done through:

John Garcia
Labour Attache
British Embassy
Washington, D.C.

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6. Meeting (June 28, 1973) with Alex Cross (Cape) and Wilfred Howard (T & N) representing both AIC and Asbestosis Research Council (with Solon, Sabourin, Swetonic).

Purpose of this meeting was to review the various ways in which the British group might help us at the time of the OSHA Hearings on Asbestos Standard Re-Opening.

We reviewed the OSHA procedures on standard setting, told them we understood there would be no new criteria package on asbestos in connection with the reopening of the standard.

We said it would be a minimum of seven months until public hearing; that the new 15 man Advisory Committee could take 9 months to deliver its report to the Secretary of Labor; that meetings of the Advisory Committee would be public as far as listening was concerned but that participation in the Advisory Committee hearings was by invitation only.

Cross and Howard suggested that since the BOHS was instrumental in influencing H.M. Factory Inspectorate not to reopen the British Asbestos Standard at this time, it might be helpful to arrange for three people, all members of the Asbestos Subcommittee of BOHS:

Dr. Hilton Lewinsohn
Stephen Holmes
G. Berry (Statistician on Dr. Gilson's staff)

to appear before the Advisory Committee and present the rationale for their not changing the present British Standard of two fibers.

They also recommended that Dr. John Gilson was by far the most eminent medical scientist in the U.K. on asbestos and would be the best one to appear at the final OSHA public hearings should that be necessary.

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7. Meeting (June 29, 1973) with Dr. John Gilson and Dr. J. Chris Wagner at the MRC Pneumoconiosis Research Unit, Penarth, Wales (Sabourin, Solon, Harrah, Swetonic).

We reviewed the Lewinsohn-Selikoff matter and stressed the fact that we looked on Selikoff's action as an attack on the British Asbestos Standard and on the reputation of H.M. Factory Inspectorate and the BOHS in the setting of proper standards to protect their workers. Dr. Gilson agreed it appeared to be so.

He said he was glad to be informed of these matters but had no interest in the medico-political area. He prefers to devote his time to pure medical research.

We talked about the reopening of the OSHA Asbestos Standard and again he stressed that he had no interest in the medico-scientific. However, I got the feeling that in light of his warm regard for George Wright, should Dr. Gilson be needed to testify in the upcoming OSHA Hearings and should his health permit it, he would react favorably to a request directly from Dr. Wright.

At the end of the meeting, Dr. Gilson asked that his secretary make a xerox of the following Lewinsohn-Selikoff material -

- Transcript of Selikoff's presentation at the ATMA Meeting at Boston.
- Copy of the slide material used by Dr. Selikoff at Boston.
- Copy of the article by Dr. Lewinsohn from which Dr. Selikoff claims to have taken the information he presented at Boston.
- Copy of Dr. George Wright's memo to me, commenting on the Lewinsohn-Selikoff matter.

He did not ask to xerox the Lewinsohn-Holmes letter draft to Selikoff because he said Mr. Berry had brought a copy back with him from Rochdale that morning and was giving it to Dr. Gilson.

Dr. Gilson was in full agreement with our strategy in the Lewinsohn-Selikoff matter.

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In closing this report, let me say that this entire trip, at my request, was planned by Ivan Sabourin. He did an outstanding job. We were able to spend time with everyone we had designated as important to a discussion of this subject of reopening the OSHA asbestos standard.

P. J. Solon, Jr.