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Messrs. [illegible]

[illegible] of Nov[illegible] Committee [illegible] to [illegible] Illinois Occupational Diseases Act. The [illegible] contained in [illegible] letter [illegible] only to what is known as the [illegible] Act and covering [illegible] as a result [illegible] was given the employers [illegible] to have no occupation or facilities in the State of Illinois coming under the provision of the act.

It develops that this particular feature is [illegible] acts. The [illegible] one being the [illegible] Occupational Diseases Act [illegible] the other the Health, Safety [illegible] Comfort Law. The [illegible] Diseases Act is so broad [illegible] scope that we [illegible] concerned and [illegible] with the provisions and potential liability involved. [illegible] act embodying or [illegible] with the other [illegible] provide for liability [illegible] compensation on account of any injury to health, disease or death, resulting from circumstances incidental to or [illegible] to occupation after October 1st this year [illegible] a period not less than [illegible] days of such employment [illegible] of silicosis or [illegible] following the [illegible] date of the [illegible] becoming so disabled who can show an exposure [illegible] the cause of the disease, however brief, will subject the employer to full liability regardless of whether or not the [illegible] of the disability [illegible] prior to October 1st or even while in the employ of another. This develops, therefore, that we are seriously involved and concerned with the act for the reason that we do have numerous operations from which inhalation of injurious dust or fumes may result in such occupational diseases.

It was deemed advisable at this time, therefore, for the committee to analyze our various operations, giving thought to such corrective or protective measures as might be consistently undertaken immediately along practically the same lines as our Safety First movement with a view to minimizing the potential hazards.

Principal amongst the various occupational diseases appears to be:

1. Lead Poisoning:

In our operations the potential hazards are to be

In this connection I would be glad to receive information of such facilities and operations in the various departments, giving size of the rooms or buildings involved with approximate total cubic feet of air space and maximum number of employes involved. In addition to which it is recommended as a temporary and immediate measure of protection that in all such operations employes be required to wear respirators when engaged in such operations in small rooms or in location where excessive fumes are usually encountered.

2. Silicosis:

The hazard in this connection develops from contact with abrasive substances such as from emery grinders, sand blasting, etc. Stone portable grinders are excluded in the rule but this does not relieve the employer's liability in the event of silicosis developing and it would be advisable to immediately require each employee using portable grinders such as crane jaw grinders which may be in use for one to several hours in an 8 hour day to wear respirators while so engaged. (Wet grinders are excluded)

If in any shop or room one or more grinders are employed and in the aggregate are used two or more hours in an 8 hour day it becomes a violation of the present rule. In this connection it may be found advisable to either convert some of our dry grinders to wet grinders or segregate these machines. It is desired that information be furnished showing location, number of grinders, approximate time used in the aggregate within 8 hours, total cubic feet of air space in the room with the maximum number of employes involved.

3. Asbestosis:

The handling of asbestos lagging would here be involved and perhaps the worst situation to be met is the removal of lagging from locomotive boilers, the grinding of broken parts such as is done at some points and the handling of same. It would appear of great importance to minimize this hazard as much as possible and it is suggested that we refrain from grinding any more of this lagging in the State of Illinois. Such instructions were issued by at least one of the other lines.

It is my thought, and we expect to make some experiments,

[redacted]

It is suggested that this or some appropriate practice be followed to safeguard this operation in addition to requiring the employees so employed to wear respirators. It is also suggested that the removal of lagging, insofar as practical, be done in localities where employees engaged in [illegible] may not be in close contact with it.

It should be understood that an employee so affected [illegible] may have actually engaged in the particular occupation [illegible] work involves contact the liability is the same as if [illegible] actually so occupied.

It is very significant that our [illegible] in instances wherein such diseases [illegible] information by reason of the publicity [illegible] undoubtedly result by suggestion in claims being [illegible] instances of sickness heretofore not [illegible]

For the further study of the [illegible] with a view to developing such information as may [illegible] in the development of new rules to supersede those now in effect and particularly for argument in opposing such rules as may be proposed that would appear unreasonable or impracticable, will Messrs. Penfield, Fuller, Hemphill and Snell, please review all such activities within their jurisdiction in the State of Illinois, giving me the information specifically requested above, together with comments as to suggestions for immediate protective measures which are contained herein.

C. I. EMERSON

Master Mechanic

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