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August 21, 1957

Mr. Louis R. Kessler, General Manager
General Products Division
Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation
National Bank Building
Toledo 4, Ohio

Dear Lou:

We recently had a long conference with Asbestos Workers Union Vice President Hugh Mulligan in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Mulligan is the most dominating force in that union; and therefore, considerable credence is placed in statements made by him. We discussed at length their International Convention which will be held in New Orleans, La. the week of September 2, and its relationship to Fiberglas and the scattered grumblings with respect to the health aspects of glass fibers.

First on the agenda at the convention will be the election of the international officers. This will be the first such election in twenty years and there will be a struggle to unseat the present incumbent Mr. Carl Sickles. Mr. Mulligan is confident that Mr. Sickles will be elected, which would be to our advantage. Several new vice presidents of the International will be elected. Those most likely to succeed are Business Agent Andrew T. Haas of Philadelphia, Pa., who in the past has been very fair; and Business Agent Malcolm Detlefs of Detroit, Mich., whose degree of cooperation is, and has been, quite questionable.

Since the International has received a number of complaints with regard to the health hazards of Fiberglas, the Executive Board will hold a session prior to the convention proper to draft a resolution to promote an impartial examination of this problem. Mr. Mulligan indicated very clearly and forcefully that he would be in favor of such a resolution, but that it should be

all inclusive covering all the products they handle, glass fibers, rock wool, asbestos, etc. He indicated strongly that he was not in favor of a demand for a premium. He made the statement that the products they handle are either healthy, or they are not. He felt that the convention would institute a research program of its own.

They are conscious of the fact that Fiberglas is dominating the insulation field and that future employment will hinge on the application and handling of these products. He has a full awareness that the various deaths from lung ailments allegedly attributed to the inhalation of glass fibers were not medically documented; nor has it been conclusively established that infection resulted from an occupational hazard.

I feel strongly that Mr. Mulligan will work diligently toward the program heretofore outlined. I plan to attend their convention and ascertain the results.

Very truly yours,

Ira I. Brought

IB:gmw
cc: Mr. Winkle
Mr. Wright
Mr. Burch ✓
Mr. Williams