

American Academy of Occupational Medicine

Lee B. Grant, M.D.
PPG Industries, Inc.
One Gateway Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222



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June 27, 1972

Dr. Charles H. Powell
National Institute of Occupational
Safety and Health
Parklawn Building
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Charlie:

I have decided to submit my request to be replaced as the American Academy of Occupational Medicine's Commissioner on the Accreditation Commission of Occupational Health Services. This comes at a time when NIOSH has let an 18-month contract to the Commission for \$71,481 to develop and validate occupational health standards. I was involved with others in developing the successful proposal.

So that the reason for my request will hopefully be understood, I felt it necessary to inform you and others of the circumstances which led up to my decision. Simply stated I am acquiescing to a suggestion from the Industrial Medical Association to the Academy of Occupational Medicine that the Academy replace me as their Commissioner. The alleged reasons for this suggestion I will deal with in a moment, but first let me say that it was because of my deep conviction that as professionals in occupational health we must do what we can to enhance the quality of occupational health programs, which must have as their prime function the protection of the employee's health, that I became involved in an attempt to improve the wholly inadequate accreditation program that had been carried on by the I.M.A. It was my recommendation to the I.M.A. that their program be discontinued as such and that a broadly-based approach involving other professional organizations in the occupational health field be considered that lead to the development of the Accreditation Commission of Occupational Health Programs.

The alleged reasons given by the I.M.A. for their suggestion to the A.A.O.M. were two: One, that because of my consultant relationship with Pittsburgh Corning Corporation and their highly publicized difficulties at the Tyler Unibestos Plant, I am, according to the I.M.A., considered by Mr. Samuels of the AFL-CIO as being anti-labor and, therefore, unacceptable to Mr. Samuels as a Commissioner; Two, that I have, according to the I.M.A., been considered by the Commissioners of the other member organizations as overbearing and uncooperative.

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Dr. Charles H. Powell
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The basis of the latter allegation is completely contrary to fact. I was unanimously elected by the Commissioners to chair the Commission in spite of my initial request to withdraw my nomination. I felt that for many reasons a Commissioner representing one of the industrial hygiene organizations would be more appropriate; one reason being the past difficulties between the I.M.A. and A.I.H.A., which resulted in the A.I.H.A. dropping out of the annual Industrial Health Conference. Andy Hosey or Jerry Lynch, I believe, will attest to the falseness of this allegation. Bill Kalley, who worked with me as a member of the Accreditation Committee, will attest to the harmonious relationships that existed on that Committee over the eighteen months or so that it took for the Committee to complete its work.

The basis of the first allegation is more difficult to comment on because it reflects an alleged position taken by Mr. Samuels and I don't know the basis for Mr. Samuels' position. However, one of the reasons that I am writing to you is that you are familiar with the Tyler situation and with Bill Johnson's letter to Dr. Peavey, Commissioner of Health of Texas, a copy of which was sent to the International Office of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, which lead to the December 13, 1971, meeting that I had with NIOSH in Cincinnati that you attended. You will recall that Bill stated that I refused to permit the NIOSH x-ray experts to review the Tyler employees' x-rays which I felt was a misunderstanding and I recommended a meeting to clear it up as promptly as possible. I have attached a copy of the Memorandum for Record of that meeting which contains some history of the Tyler Plant problem. A pertinent fact not covered in this memorandum is that on my recommendation in 1969 Dr. Morton Corn, the Professor of Industrial Hygiene at the University of Pittsburgh, assisted in the design of a ventilation system to control employee exposure to asbestos dust, both for the Tyler Plant and the Port Allegany Plant of Pittsburgh Corning. The system was installed first at Port Allegany and by the time this was completed, a determination had been made to develop an asbestos-free product. Again, this decision was partially on my recommendation and also the evidence that was developed by Dr. Clark Cooper of the University of California in a study which I also recommended.

I believe that you, Dr. Corn, and Dr. Cooper, whose professional judgment I respect, would support me in my opinion that I acted in a wholly professional and unbiased manner in my consultant relationships with Pittsburgh Corning and do not deserve the alleged anti-labor label.

In any event I am requesting the A.A.O.M. Board to replace me as their Commissioner. Since I have worked long and hard for a meaningful accreditation program, I would not like to have it jeopardized by any opinions of me, false as I believe them to be.

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Very truly yours,


Lee F. Grant, M.D.

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LBG:lc

Enclosure

cc: Harold Golz, M.D. - President, A.A.O.M.
Accreditation Commission Members
Clark Cooper, M.D.
Dr. Morton Corn
William Kiley

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7/11/72

Dear Jerry:

I thought you might be interested in an opinion other than my own on the alleged anti-labor position I am reported to have taken at the Tyler Plant of Pittsburgh Corning.

Lee B. Grant, M.D.

Attachment

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GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15261

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

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July 5, 1972

Dr. Charles H. Powell
National Institute of Occupational Medicine
Parklawn Building
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Charlie:

I was shocked and dismayed by Lee Grant's letter to you dated June 27, 1972. Specifically, I am disheartened by the alleged reasons given by the IMA for suggesting that the Academy of Occupational Medicine replace Lee as their representative as Accreditation Commissioner on the Accreditation Commission of Occupational Health Services.

Without violating the consultant-client relationship, it is possible for me to state that in all my dealings as an engineering consultant to the Pittsburgh-Corning Corporation, Lee was first and foremost concerned with the welfare of the worker. The written record of the Tyler Plant would substantiate this statement. The installation of controls in P-C facilities, per my recommendations, were always backed to the hilt by Lee. My presence on the site as an Engineering Consultant to P-C was through the efforts of Lee Grant. For Lee Grant to be designated as anti-labor by Mr. Samuels, of the AFL-CIO, is an injustice.

I have not been close to progress with the Accreditation Commission but have heard from others of the extraordinary effort put forth by Lee. His resignation for alleged -- and in my opinion incorrect reasons, is a loss to all groups associated with the efforts of the Commission.

But I am more disturbed by the possible damage to the professional reputation of one of our best Industrial Medical Directors. In this regard, I am puzzled as to how to proceed to set the Tyler record straight, but wish you to know that it would be my pleasure to do so under conditions that would maintain the confidentiality of the Pittsburgh-Corning client-consultant relationship, but would clearly establish among members of the professional community, the role of Dr. Grant. To my knowledge, he has nothing to be ashamed of in this case.

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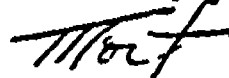
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Dr. Charles A. Smith

July 5, 1972

kindest personal regards.

Very truly yours,



Morton Corn, Ph.D.
Professor

MC:ng

cc: Lee B. Grant ✓

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RECEIVED

JUL 10 1972

MEDICAL DIRECTOR

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