FILE NAME: Metropolitan Life (ML)

DATE: 1987

DOC#: ML166

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Trip Report RE Trip to Investigate Occupational Disease at Two Locations in CA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. J. Page Woodard
Mr. Donald R. Tollefsen

SUBJECT: Report of trip to Lompoc and Palos Verdes

On Monday March 26, Mr. Page Woodard, Mr. Hugh Jackson, Mr. Donald Tollefsen and I met with Dr. Abrams at the California State Department of Health. Dr. Abrams explained that Dr. Halverson, the State Health Officer was ill and would not be present. Dr. Abrams is head of the Division of Adult Hygiene under which come industrial hygiene activities. He had with him Dr. Christine Einert, Dr. Leach, and Dr. Bunn, the latter heading up the Tuberculosis Division of the State Department of Health.

After a brief review of the whole question of occupational disease at Lompoc and Palos Verdes, the subject of aluminum prophylaxis was very thoroughly discussed pro and con. Dr. Abrams felt that it would be most desirable if the results of the animal experiments with aluminum and diatomaceous earth were available before prophylaxis was undertaken. Dr. Einert felt that if aluminum prophylaxis could be well supervised and, particularly, if it could be correlated with pulmonary function tests, that such an undertaking might prove of inestimable value not only to industry locally but to industry generally. The attitude of the State Health Department might be summed up in the statement that they would be glad to cooperate in any reasonable endeavor and that they would give us support if the whole project was adequately supervised.

While in San Francisco, Mr. Woodard, Mr. Jackson and I went to Redwood City, went through the plant and examined a number of films and discussed the subject of medical supervision in this plant. The following day I went to the University of California Hospital and met with the manager of the Redwood City plant, his assistant, Dr. East the Company Physician in Redwood City, and Dr. Giansiracusa who has been treating one of the Redwood City employees with cortisone.

On the evening of the 27th, at the invitation of Dr. Abrams, I attended a meeting of the Northern California Industrial Hygiene Association where I made a talk on the general topic of pneumoconioses.

On Wednesday, March 28th, I went to Lompoc where we had a series of discussions with Dr. Anderson, Mr. Westmont, Mr. Legge, Mr. Woodard and Mr. Jackson. It developed that Dr. Anderson had a number of reservations with respect to the advisability of aluminum prophylaxis. All the angles of this were discussed back and forth and I felt that by the time we had left, some if not all of Dr. Anderson's objections had been resolved. Dr. Anderson raised the point that there had been no animal experimentation with diatomaceous earth and aluminum. Our position was that such experimentation was under way and that the information available from all sources made it seem worthwhile to try aluminum prophylaxis without having to wait a year or possibly two years for the results of the animal experimentation which might or might not add materially to our present knowledge. During our stay in Lompoc we made a trip to the plant and I also spent some time with Dr. Anderson in the plant medical department.

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On Thursday, the 29th, Mr. Woodard, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Tellefsen and I had a long conference with Dr. Smart in Los Angeles. Dr. Smart also raised the question of the desirability of animal experimentation before proceeding with aluminum prophylaxis and again we discussed this back and forth for some time. He raised the point that if the results of animal experimentation with diatomaceous earth and aluminum were not available before prophylaxis was begun that it might create a detrimental legal situation in the event that any individual might bring suit, against either of the companies, alleging that his lungs had been injured by the aluminum. The following day, Friday March 30th, we had another long discussion with Dr. Smart. On Friday afternoon Mr. Tellefsen, Mr. Stockton and I called upon Mr. Ives, a prominent attorney in Los Angeles and legal consultant for the Great Lakes Carbon Company. We raised the point that Dr. Smart had made and Mr. Ives gave it as his opinion that aluminum therapy had now been used for a number of years in thousands of instances and no untoward effects had ever been reported and no trouble had ever arisen as a result. That inasmuch as diatomaceous earth was a siliceous dust and the companies concerned were endeavoring to protect the health and well-being of their employees and were proposing to institute a prophylactic treatment that gave promise of value, he did not feel that there was any danger of the companies being charged with negligence. This attitude on the part of Mr. Ives seemed to relieve Dr. Smart considerably.

On Saturday, the 31st, Mr. Tellefsen and I visited the plant of the Great Lakes Carbon Company at Palos Verdes where we were met by Mr. Stockton Here, again, much of the same items that had been discussed in the previous days were gone over again with Mr. Stockton.

After returning to Los Angeles on Saturday evening I had another conversation with Dr. Smart over the telephone. As far as Dr. Smart is concerned I felt that his attitude was that he would very much like to try the aluminum prophylaxis provided that he did not become involved in medico-legal difficulties by so doing.

While in Los Angeles I saw Dr. Rutherford Johnstone and inasmuch as he is now an official consultant to the State Health Department I felt that it was most advisable to discuss our situation with him. The chances are that sooner or later it will be brought to his official notice and if he is prepared it will be greatly to his advantage and to ours.

It should be appreciated that after each conference we had with the various physicians Mr. Woodard, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Tellefsen and I met and thoroughly discussed the various opinions and points of view that had been expressed. We did this to adjust our own thinking and to make certain that we had not left any important points out.

I have the feeling and so do the others who accompanied me that this trip was immensely useful and only by sitting down with all concerned and threshing out all the points involved could we ever hope to get a fair degree of unanimity among all the parties concerned. Necessarily, there would be divergent views expressed but I feel that these differences can be reconciled so as to permit of a harmonious program.

The following points arose during the course of our visit which were

of particular interest. Dr. Abrams raised the matter of the reporting of occupational diseases. He pointed out that the law was designed to cover acute illnesses and that it was difficult to interpret with respect to chronic occupational disease and was most confusing. He said to us that he felt we were in a better position to make suggestions as to how the regulation might be re-worded and he hoped that we would give him some constructive criticism. Later, in Los Angeles, Mr. Tollefsen and I discussed this question with Mr. Ives. Mr. Ives read over the procedure formulated by Mr. Woodard and Mr. Jackson and in use at Johns-Manville and he said that he was in complete agreement with it and that there was no question in his mind but that that procedure met the legal requirements. However, he thought we should give serious consideration to complying with Dr. Abrams' suggestion. Otherwise, they might go ahead on their own initiative and re-draft the regulation in a form that might be quite objectionable.

While in San Francisco, I had a visit with Dr. Shepard of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Dr. Shepard is the foremost public health authority on the West Coast. He is a friend of the State Health Officer and he was appointed as a consultant to the State Department of Health in matters of industrial hygiene by the Governor. Dr. Rutherford Johnstone of Los Angeles has been similarly appointed for the southern part of the State. Dr. Shepard informed me that a new Medical Director of the State Industrial Commission had just been appointed, namely, Dr. John L. Barritt formerly of San Diego. Dr. Hardo, who is the County Health Officer of Santa Barbara County, has expressed himself in opposition to aluminum therapy. However, I do not feel any particular apprehension on this score and have left the matter in Dr. Shepard's hands who has stated he will gladly be of assistance.

Dr. Smart felt that the literature should be searched so that there would be no possibility of over-looking any reference to aluminum therapy or aluminum prophylaxis that might contain an adverse opinion. He has a competent research assistant on his staff who has already started this job and as soon as the preliminary part of it is finished he will inform us.

Dr. Smart felt that it was desirable to know that aluminum in combination with diatomaceous earth does not develop toxic properties and thought that possibly intravenous or peritoneal injections might determine this in a relatively short period of time. This will be discussed with Dr. Verwald very shortly.

The matter of pulmonary function tests is of very great importance provided a technique can be devised that is applicable to industrial work in contradistinction to a research laboratory. On April 10th Dr. Hannon, at my request, came to New York to demonstrate a device of his for estimating pulmonary function. There were present at this demonstration Dr. Emerson of Bellevue, Dr. Edgar Mayer, Chairman of the State Committee appointed by the Governor to rule on silicosis cases, and several other persons including members of my staff here. I will make a separate report on this as soon as I have had a chance to discuss the subject with the other persons who were present.

SUMMARY. The following details are to be followed up:

1. Support of Industrial Commission of California.
2. Drafting of regulation on reporting of pneumoconioses. At least attempt should be made to do this.
3. Follow-up of experimental work in Saranac. If necessary, visits to Saranac to find out what progress is being made and what results are evident.
4. Follow-up search of literature on aluminum.

April 11, 1951

A.J. Lanza, M.D.