

FILE NAME: Metropolitan Life (ML)

DATE: 1933 Feb 21

DOC#: ML107

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to Mr. Cummings from Dr. Harbaugh RE
Removing Information from Asbestosis Study for Publication

Date: 2/21/33

Title: Letter

Author: Harbaugh

Receiver: Cummings

Comments:

"While the members of the Board feel that the data contained in your paper could be made use of by unscrupulous persons in a manner most damaging to the industry even though the paper is made unidentifiable as to the location [studied], they do appreciate your point of view and also the significance of your scientific contribution, and they do not wish to be unreasonable or unfair in the matter of publication of the paper."

Harbaugh went on to say that they would approve the paper if all geographic references were deleted. For example the title would be changed from "Studies on Silicosis Occurring in a Southwestern Mining Community" to Studies on Silicosis Occurring in a Metal Mining District in the United States."

Dear Mr. Cummings:

I have finally got an explanation of opinion from the members of the Board of Directors regarding your letter of February 2nd.

While the members of the Board feel that the facts contained in your paper could be made use of by unscrupulous persons in a manner which damaging to the industry even though the paper is not unduly biased by the Association members, they do appreciate your point of view and value the objectiveness of your editorial criticism, and they do not wish to be unreasonable or unfair in the matter of publication of the paper.

In view of the your suggestion, they feel that no reasonable objection can be offered to the publication of your paper. If there is desire to print it all matter which makes the substance identifiable as to the group concerned. The title "Review on Silica" occurring in a Serial Mining Magazine is the best solution." In regard, rather than in a Southern Mining Magazine.

I want through this paper with the idea of making some suggestions on the necessary editorial, but it became apparent that you would need to make so many corrections that I felt you would make them better with a "new" hand. It will require the deletion of references to Oklahoma, Oklahoma County, Joplin, Lead and also, possibly, limitations (including the Association and the Silica) and various other matter. After you have revised the manuscript to show the opportunity to improve it, I believe he will be satisfied the changed and had been accomplished, since I have not yet seen any of the paper's material. I believe you should have not and being it longer than he will it have not work.

THE BUREAU OF THE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
and
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

PRODUCED S/C/M/M/S

COPY FOR Mr. A. J. LERER.

A
JANUARY 21, 1938.

Mr. Donald H. Thompson, Asst. Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Room 100,
Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.

Sheet # 1 - 2-21-33
Donald E. Cummings.

I fully appreciate your position in this whole matter for I am extremely interested in the progress of scientific work. I believe that the publication of the paper in this form will not detract from its fundamental value to those who are really interested in it from a scientific standpoint.

Incidentally, I recently discovered the lost copy which you first sent me.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

M. D. Harbaugh
M. D. Harbaugh, Sec'y.

C.S.
Dr. A. J. Lemmon
Dr. R. E. Sayers.

PRODUCED S/C/M/MS

001180