FILE NAME: Eternit (ETER)

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Einar Juel & Co. - Report of Translated Conversation RE Asbestosis

Conversation 6.12.1967 at
Dansk Eternit-Fabrik's office in Aalborg

Mr. A. Schonnemann, Director
Mr. W. Johnsen, Director
Mr. O. Homann Pedersen, Engineer

It was stated that since 1927 asbestos has been worked with in Aalborg, and no alarming cases of diseases had been recorded. The prescriptions issued by the Factory Inspection were followed, and a close co-operation with the local doctors and with Dr. Aage Grut was established. In the factory, very powerful suction equipment with filters has been installed. The filters are frequently being emptied for dust coming from the production.

The question of "asbestosis" has been watched since the start of the factory and quite naturally the factory take an interest in the recent development where a connection between asbestos dust and lung cancer has been mentioned. The report in the English press and television was known, but Dansk Eternit-Fabrik had the opinion that the way in which this information had been treated hardly contributed to an objective evaluation of such a serious subject.

The Factory found it opportune that they took contact with Dr. Grut to discuss the matter.

I pointed out the difficulties the shipbuilding industry would run into if the workers should demand precautions like the ones which may now be established in England and mentioned that the framing system which we have constructed and compared with other systems will mean a very essential reduction of the asbestos dust because this system does not call for drilling and screwing of the inner skin, the ceilings or the bulkhead sheets. The construction of this framing system is about finished, and it will be sent out in a later report to the members of the Shipyard Association.

The firm H. Nielsen & Son are interested in taking up the production in Denmark, and in 1968 they will build a section of a ship accommodation showing the applications of this system. The system is identical with the system used by Italian and French shipyards.

H. Nielsen & Son will erect the accommodation section in their factory in Nyborg, and the result of their experience etc. will be placed at the disposal of the shipyards.

Dansk Eternitfabrik promised to give sympathetic consideration to the question of delivering the necessary asbestos cement for which the framing system is very suitable.