

counter agent to opinions being expressed and conclusions arrived at by Quebec physicians and officials upon the basis of surmise, social ideology, and inadequate information."⁷⁵

A few days later, Brown invited executives from the following companies to meet at the Johns-Manville Boardroom to discuss the Saranac report on November 11, 1948:

American BrakeBlok Div. of American Brake Shoe & Foundry
Gatke Corporation
Keasbey & Mattison Company
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.
Russell Manufacturing Company
Thermoid Company (Southern Asbestos)
Union Asbestos and Rubber Company
United States Gypsum Company

To each, he sent a copy of the report from Saranac, asking that it be treated with the utmost confidence. Brown asked that each addressee return his copy of the draft report by the time of the meeting, concluding: "It is obviously undesirable that the report in its present form receive any distribution or publicity outside a limited number of people in our respective organizations."⁷⁶

American Brake Shoe Medical Director Lloyd Hamlin saw nothing in the draft report that he thought warranted concern from a legal viewpoint: "Similar reports are frequent in the literature not only from this country but also from abroad."⁷⁷ That company's Executive Vice-President, W.T. Kelly, sent Hamlin's comments and asked Brown to act on his company's behalf at the meeting.⁷⁸ U.S. Gypsum also wrote that it would not be sending a representative but asked Brown to represent its interests.⁷⁹ The other firms, except for Russell Manufacturing, each arranged to send an executive to the meeting.^{80,81}

The day after the meeting was held, Vandiver Brown reported to W.T. Kelly and sent a copy to U.S. Gypsum's J.W.