

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL
ATTORNEY-CLIENT COMMUNICATION

November 13, 1968

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE

REPORT TO POLICY COMMITTEE
ON INITIAL LEGAL PROBLEMS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE AND LOCATION: October 15, 1968, at GHQ

PRESENT FROM THE LEGAL PROBLEMS SUB-COMMITTEE: Herbert Morton Ball (Chairman), W. W. Lanigan and R. R. Standel, Jr.

PRESENT FROM THE POLICY COMMITTEE: Herbert Morton Ball and Dr. George W. Wright.

PURPOSE OF MEETING: The principal purpose of the meeting was for Dr. Wright to begin the education of the committee members as to the medical and scientific aspects of asbestosis and mesothelioma. Among the major areas discussed by Dr. Wright were:

- 1) the formulation and chemical make-up of the various types of asbestos and the commercial applications thereof;
- 2) the nature of asbestosis, including the causations, symptoms, detection, diagnosis and prognosis of the disease;
- 3) the present state of medical knowledge concerning asbestosis and mesothelioma and the chronology of the historical development thereof; and
- 4) Dr. Selikoff's work, the conclusions to be drawn therefrom, and the probable ramifications.

C. B. Burnett joined the meeting for lunch. At that time a general discussion of the legal posture of this problem was had. Among the things discussed were:

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- 1) the present status of the common law asbestosis actions now pending against us;
- 2) the probability of numerous similar cases in the future and the best means of preparing for them;
- 3) the significance that medical testimony and knowledge will have in these cases; and
- 4) the need for an industry-wide approach to the problem.

CONCLUSIONS: 1) Serious consideration should be given to inviting other companies to join with us in an industry-wide legal committee, the purpose of which would be to maximize and co-ordinate the legal thinking and efforts of the various asbestos mining and/or manufacturing companies.

2) It will be necessary to set up a comprehensive system whereby counsel engaged to defend various asbestosis cases throughout the country on our behalf can be properly and effectively educated as to the medical and scientific aspects of such cases.

R. R. Standel, Jr.

cc: W. W. Lanigan
E. M. Fenner - Finderne
C. L. Sheckler - Finderne
H. M. Jackson

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