

File

--NATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, April 27, 1979

PLAINTIFFS EXHIBIT

1D 1854

Present for the Company

J. J. Whelan  
P. E. Toth  
E. E. Meyer

Present for the Union

E. Kovacich  
F. Mirer

The following issues were discussed at the monthly meeting which was held in the labor relations conference room - WHQ.

CARPAL TUNNEL SYNDROME

The Company provided a status report of the program to the union. They were advised that the questionnaires were expected to be received this week and analysis would begin the week of May 7, 1979. Following analysis of the questionnaire the company will be filming certain operations at Dearborn Assembly Plant. These films will also be analyzed and data resulting from this analysis should be available by approximately June 15, 1979. The union was advised that the study will be completed by August 1, 1979.

Kovacich then commented on his observations of certain operations at Sheldon Road on Friday, April 27, 1979. Kovacich requested that corporate \* personnel look at these jobs which he alleged are responsible for employee complaints and stated that Gary Atkins (plant safety engineer) knew all of the job particulars.

LEAD

The union representatives stated that it was their impression that the requirement regarding restricted respirator use to 4.4 hours per shift beginning in 1980, as described in the new lead standard, was applicable to the wearing of all respirators. Toth stated that it was his understanding that air supplied hoods were excluded from this restriction. Toth indicated that he was sure that instructions from OSHA subsequent to the issuance of the new standard covered this question. Toth indicated that he would attempt to locate the appropriate material and share it with the members of the committee. Kovacich again alluded to the company providing more relief to employees assigned to the solder grind booths and any other employees exposed to more than 50 u.g.% (over the PEL). Mirer stated that the UAW has some data that indicated that even employees under the air supplied hood might be exposed to \* more than 50 u.g.% and that additional relief might therefore be appropriate. I responded that the issue of relief was not appropriate subject matter for discussion by this committee.

The legal status of the new lead standard was discussed primarily by Mirer, for Kovacich's benefit. There was no disagreement among the parties in this regard.

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Mirer also indicated that he had not seen the Company's request for variance. He indicated that after reviewing the request he might wish to discuss it further.

#### TRAINING CONFERENCE

- \* We advised the union that we would make a copy of this years agenda available to them by the middle of May. Kovacich recommended that the use of epoxies be included on the agenda and the Company readily agreed. (The use of a particular epoxy in AAD and MSD has created some employee complaints especially at certain MSD plants and has been discussed at earlier meetings.)

#### TDI

The question of employee exposure to TDI at Utica was again discussed. Mirer inquired of Toth about materials in use at Utica with no M numbers.

- \* Toth agreed to check this out. A copy of the industrial hygiene survey results from Utica was provided to Mirer. With respect to monitoring equipment at Utica, which the union regards as inadequate, Toth indicated that we are presently looking at newer, more effective equipment. Toth also mentioned that the Company is considering a modification to the ventilation system.

The union members expressed concern that the company did not have a back-up monitoring system at Utica. Kovacich stated that he thought the

- \* Company should have "an early warning system" rather than waiting for employees to report problems to medical.

The union stated that employees at Utica are still complaining about exposure to TDI and agreed to furnish the company with the names of these employees.

#### ASBESTOS

Toth indicated that the Company was still compiling a list of personnel

- \* exposed to asbestos for the purpose of providing these employees with annual physicals. Kovacich requested that the Company investigate a situation
- \* at Lorain Assembly Plant involving the receipt and storage of brake assemblies, allegedly containing small amounts of asbestos, which are packaged only in plastic bags. Apparently such packages, stored on wooden pallets, can at times not only create housekeeping problems but also result in employee exposure to asbestos as well.

Kovacich also mentioned that in the future he may request that a corporate representative accompany him on plant tours or surveys. He stated that too frequently local company representatives are not sufficiently familiar with the health issues discussed and are therefore reluctant to commit company resources to reasonable resolutions on a timely basis.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 25, 1979.

  
G. J. Whelan

\* Requires Company action and/or follow-up

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