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H. S. Gropp

P. M. Stumpf

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Asbestos-Free CAFCO - Mt. Sinai Hospital Project

The information you gave in your December 17 memo doesn't seem to add up. I don't know how Selikoff cannot find asbestos with an ordinary microscope but can find it with an electron microscope.

The products we furnished were asbestos-free. However, if, by error, asbestos was used, or there was some contamination from residual asbestos in our equipment, asbestos would have been visible by the naked eye, or certainly by the ordinary microscope. There is no way for us, or anyone, to separate asbestos to the extent that it could not be seen by the regular microscope, but could be seen through the electron microscope.

There is the possibility that ~~since~~ the rooms in which the microscopes are, are not completely clean, and I mean by that - with sophisticated air washing equipment to wash the air - maybe they are seeing on the electron microscope fine particles of asbestos which may come from worn automobile brake linings floating on the air.

Anyway, the health authorities are now only concerned with asbestos particles in excess of 5 microns, and are not concerned with these smaller than 5 microns.

A 5 micron particle of asbestos appears to be pretty large in comparison with other materials, because a person with average eyesight can see down to about 10 microns in size with the naked eye.

If you'd like for me to assist you in this, or to contact Selikoff or Harold Rosen, please advise.

FMS/ec

cc:

J. P. Verhalen
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FMS