

D R A F T

3/30/76

SUBJECT: Comments to the SAC - CTFA on March 24, 1976

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
WCD-375

You have in your packet, the report of the Talc Ad Hoc Committee by Dr. Sandland. I would point out to you there will be a meeting of that committee on March 31st and if any of you would like to attend or have comments, please make sure you get them to Dr. Sandland prior to that meeting.

You also have in your information the press release by the CTFA concerning talc and the copy of the press release dated March 23rd by the President of Mt. Sinai Medical Center.

As you probably know, this story appeared in the Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Syndicate which reaches 340 papers on March 8th. The article was written by Marian Burros and freely quoted on Selikoff and his staff. The television coverage was very strong in the New York, Washington area. It was somewhat spotty on the rest of the country.

Johnson & Johnson protested to the major media areas, including the Washington Post. We have protested to Dr. Langer, Rohl, and Selikoff and we protested strongly to the Mt. Sinai management based on the television releases in New York. We also have been in contact with the FDA pointing out that we feel they have done a good job and emphasizing the roll of the FDA and the CTFA.

We believe that our protest to Mt. Sinai has proven to be most effective, even though a Washington Post re-write is likely. During the protest to Selikoff, Langer and Rohl, we have learned that they believe that their methodology is excellent. The Mt. Sinai management, without contrary evidence, also believes this.

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We have, however, given them the conflicting data between Pooley and Langer and also gave them the letter of McGrone which was in the packet submitted to the FDA on March 15th.

The Selikoff group have told the Mt. Sinai Management that more recent samples have shown much lower levels of asbestos, i.e. a half percent of "probable asbestos".

I would suggest a couple of courses of action to you for your consideration.

1. If you have been to Mt. Sinai and gotten a sample of your product and had it analyzed, I would urge that you write to Selikoff and to Dr. Chalmers to point out the errors in the analysis.
2. I would urge any company cited, that has not been, to go to Selikoff to indicate that you have been told that new samples are being looked at. This would allow you to get a sample of old product and any new product and date the product. I would suggest that you send an expert, get a sample, make the Selikoff group show you how they analyzed it, and get their data. Have the sample analyzed and if there are differences, then reply to the Selikoff group,^o copy Dr. Chalmers, the president of the institution.
3. I would urge you to carefully consider your choices of talc. If you have any question at all, I would strongly suggest that you make sure your talcs are clean. We anticipate that either the FDA will publish a regulation based on the CTFA, or that there will be a) an opinion emanating from the OTC Miscellaneous Panel. We are planning to present a review for that panel probably

during the summer and I suspect that there will ^{no} ~~not~~ be an allowance made for chrysotile or any fibrous amphybole mineral.

4. I would like to sincerely thank all members of CTFA and the CTFA Staff who have enabled us to keep this very difficult program tied together in the last three weeks.

D. R. Petterson

DRP/mm