PENGAD-Bayonne,N.J.
PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
UR-593

United States Rubber Company

Administrative Center, Winnsboro
(Location)

October 14, 1964

Mr. A. C. Link
Hogansville

Enclosed are copies of articles which appeared last week in the New York Times and the Stamford, Connecticut, paper. I am sure you have seen similar articles in your local papers.

At the A.T.I. Meeting on Thursday, we learned that this press release went to 1,750 daily papers and in view of the news worthiness of the subject matter, there is a great possibility that the majority of these papers published the release in total or in part.

It was the consensus of the A.T.I. that articles such as this present a very grave hazard to our Industry from both personnel standpoint and the economic standpoint.

After considerable discussion of the pros and cons, we arrived at the conclusion that it would be unwise to attempt any denial of these articles inasmuch as we have rather sketchy information to make such denials. It was decided that each company would attempt to play down the Selikoff Report and await the outcome of publicity from the conference in New York next week.

As a result of these articles, Dr. Cralley of the Public Health Service has prepared a paper for publication in New York next week which he told us on Friday appeared most promising from the Industry standpoint. He further stated that his data, of course, was incomplete but data collected so far within the Asbestos Textile Industry, would tend to repute many of the statements made in the press releases.

As an example of the implication arrived from such articles as these, we were advised on Thursday by General Textiles in New Jersey, that they had received three cancellations for ironingboard covers that morning as a result of people reading these articles. I talked with Johns-Manville today and they are being beseiged with telephone calls asking for clarification or explanations of the articles. The Management and Medical Department have taken the stand that the articles are without foundation and that the findings of the study group next week as well as the Public Health Survey now being conducted would support the contention. In view of the foregoing, it may be well that we reassess our position with respect to the Public Health Survey being conducted by Dr. Cralley. I am not suggesting that we reverse our position but upon Dr. Wells' return from New York and after consulting with Dr. Wolfsie, we may wish to alter our position.

At the Board of Governors Meeting at the A.T.I.. it was unanimously voted that the A.T.I. ask Dr. Ken Smith of Johns-Manville to coordinate the

INTERCOMPANY CORRESPONDENCE

doctors from our various companies and in this connection, it was suggested that all of the doctors meet in New York with Dr. Smith sometime Sunday afternoon or Sunday evening to determine the position they will uphold in the forthcoming meetings. I am sure Dr. Wells will want to be a part of this group.

We will keep you advised of any developments within our Industry and particularly any positions which the A.T.I. may take on this matter.

S. J. Peele, Jr.
pi

CC: Mr. R. A. All
Mr. R. C. Harrington

50020039

Asbestos Suspected

Cancer Link Studied

NEW YORK (AP) — Medical specialists pointed a strong finger of suspicion today at asbestos as a cause not only of lung cancer but also of another extremely rare form of fatal human cancer.

This cancer, known as mesothelioma, involves the lining of the abdominal and chest cavities.

From Autopsy Studies.

Much of the specialists' evidence comes from autopsy studies of men working with asbestos as an insulation material.

They said it also is possible that dust from products containing asbestos might be exposing people generally to some risk of cancers. How much risk there might be, they said, they could not tell.

Asbestos is used not only for insulation but as a flooring material, in automobile brake shoes, and in many other applications. Ordinary wear and tear, they said, might release dust into the atmosphere.

The report was presented to the American Public Health Association by Drs. Irving J. Selikoff and Jacob Churg of the Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, and E. Cuyler Hammond, Sc.D., director of statistical research for the American Cancer Society. Dr. Hammond is known for his studies of cigarette smoking in relationship to lung cancer.

Wide Usage.

Asbestos is a mineral, magnesium silicate, and about 3½ million tons of it are used worldwide each year, they said. In 1935, worldwide usage amounted to about 500 tons, the researchers said.

Tiny, hard particles of asbes-

(Continued on Page 3 Col. 6)

STAMFORD

Asbestos Suspected

Cancer Link Studied

(Continued from Page One)

tos can lodge in the lungs during mining, processing and application of asbestos-containing materials, or possibly from dust raised through normal wear, they said.

"We had previously found that lung cancer and possibly gastrointestinal cancer were markedly increased in incidence among asbestos insulation workers," they said.

Now they also find a markedly high increase among such workers of mesothelioma, a cancer so rare it is not classed separately as a cause of death in the international classification of diseases.

High Ratio.

As a prime example, they reported finding 10 deaths due to this form of cancer in a study of 307 deaths among New York and New Jersey building trades union members engaged in using asbestos at least occasionally as an insulation material.

By contrast, this form of cancer was found to be the cause of death among only three out of more than 30,000 autopsies in a study of the general population sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

Other studies showed a high incidence not only of lung cancer but mesothelioma among persons who had asbestos particles in their lungs at the time of their deaths, they said.

"It would appear that mesothelioma must be added to the neoplastic (cancer) risks of asbestos inhalation and joins lung cancer (53 out of 307 deaths) and probably cancer of the stomach and colon (34 of 307 deaths) as a significant complication of such industrial exposure in the United States," their report said.

Effects Not Immediate.

The cancers may not appear until 20 to 30 years after asbestos dust is inhaled or swallowed, they said. Since the particles do not dissolve, they may remain in body tissue as a continuous source that might incite ultimate cancer.

Dr. Hammond said one worry is whether a few or even a single past exposure might set the stage for cancer. He said this is a matter calling for more research.

Taking cautions to avoid breathing asbestos dust is a main problem for industrial workers, said Dr. Selikoff said.

50020040

24 L

A RARE CARCINOMA BELIEVED ON RISE

Study of Asbestos ... Shows a High Incidence

By HAROLD M. SCHMECK Jr.

Occupational exposure to asbestos may be making an extremely rare form of cancer much more common, according to a report yesterday to the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association.

The cancer is called mesothelioma. It affects the inner lining of the abdomen or of the chest and, in either case, it is fatal. In the general population it is extremely rare, but studies in Africa, where asbestos is mined, and more recent studies of construction workers exposed to asbestos dust in the New York City area show it to be far more common among those exposed occupationally.

The specialists who gave the report expressed worry that the danger might not be entirely restricted to a limited occupation group, but that it might be more general and possibly of considerable importance. There is no direct evidence to substantiate this, they said, but some of the available findings hint that this may be the case.

The report was given by Dr. Irving J. Selikoff and Dr. Jacob Churg of Mount Sinai Hospital and Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond, director of statistical research for the American Cancer Society.



The New York Times

Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond

Mesothelioma is so rare in the general population that it is not separately coded among causes of death. Yet a study four years ago in an African asbestos mining region found 33 cases, the report said.

Heavy exposure to asbestos dust has in the past been linked with some increased risk of lung cancer. Dr. Selikoff and Dr. Hammond said at a news conference before their talk, but the mesothelioma is another matter.

The group pursued the question by studies in the United States. One of these was a study of deaths among members of two New York area locals of a construction trade union whose members dealth with asbestos insulation. Of a total of 3017 deaths occurring in this fairly restricted group over 20 years—1943 to 1964—10 were found to be caused by mesothelioma.

The report called this "an extraordinarily high incidence for a tumor generally so rare." In contrast, they current human study by the American Cancer Society on the effects of environmental factors on health showed that among 32,652 deaths in the general population only three were due to mesothelioma.

A further study of many cases of mesothelioma collected over a long period by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology showed that one-fourth of those specimens that could be tested had evidence of the presence of asbestos.

The worrisome feature, Dr. Hammond and Dr. Selikoff said, is the evidence that asbestos, once taken into the body, stays there. Thus even a single heavy exposure could conceivably produce a cancer after a latent period of 20 years or more, they said.

This idea, for which they said there is some experimental as well as epidemiological evidence, could expand the risk from simply those occupationally exposed to virtually anyone who might only occasionally encounter asbestos dust.

The severity of exposure necessary to produce such a serious effect is not known, the two physicians said.

50020043