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June 13, 1967

TO: F. J. Salem, Jr.
K. V. Lindell
W. M. Jackson
A. C. Smith

RE: ASBESTOS AND BRAKE LININGS

Yesterday the Federal Government released to the press the 126 page report to the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, by the Task Force on Environmental Health and Related Problems.

On page 7 of this report specific mention is made of the relationship between the wearing of brake linings and lung cancer.

Although the NEW news release that accompanied the long document did not mention this reference to asbestos and brake linings, the United Press International did pick it up (presumably from the full report) and did include it in their wire story about the report of the Task Force.

Since we have seen some evidence, through our own research activities, that would seem to refute the allegation that asbestos gets into the ambient air, in any significant quantities, through the wearing of brake linings, we may wish to add this item to our agenda for the Task Force meeting at 2:30 P.M. next Tuesday.

Attached are the evaluation sheet, the cover of the 126 page report, page 7 from the report, the U.P.I. wire story and the NEW news release. Also I am attaching a Hill & Knowlton "Environmental Health Unit Memorandum" concerning the above-mentioned report.


W. F. Raines

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SUMMARY AND EVALUATION

Subject: Report to the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare by the Task Force on Environmental Health and Related Problems. Mention of asbestos. Of interest and importance.

Evaluation: This long (126 pages) report includes the flat statement that the wearing of automobile brakes "has increased the public's exposure to asbestos particles...which may promote lung cancer over long periods of time." Although the voluminous report covers every aspect of environmental health, the allegation about asbestos was picked up by the United Press International and made part of the wire story, which is attached. The press release issued by HEW is also attached.

Authors: Linton, R. M., Chairman, and the five members of the Task Force.

Not Printed: Issued by Department of Health, Education and Welfare, June 12, 1967.

Title: "A Strategy for a Livable Environment"

Summary: As given in one paragraph.

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