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August 23, 1966

File: C-00227

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ASBESTOS

I am enclosing the data we have extracted from the medical records of 52 pipe coverers at Chambers Works.

While it would appear that there is no cause for concern as to an undue incidence of cancer among these workers, any other conclusion would be of doubtful validity until more data are obtained. These data should consist of:

1. The documentation of the exposure in terms of duration and intensity (the latter will be very difficult to do for past years except in general terms).
2. A survey of the smoking habits of the exposed men.
3. A survey of a control group having the same age and smoking characteristics as the exposed group but who do not work with asbestos fiber.
4. A "blind" reading of the chest x-rays of the control and exposed groups.

There is some interest at other plants in the possible health problems of those employees who work with asbestos and consideration should be given to enlarging the scope of the study to include as many exposed persons as possible. This is a situation in which the union is well informed and is playing a leading role in gathering health information on its members. Management must obviously be at least as well informed as to any hazards to health that may be associated with asbestos.

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I believe it would be profitable for representatives from Chambers Works, Textile Fibers plants, the Industrial Hygiene Laboratory, and Haskell Laboratory to sit down with Dr. Fell and work out a plan that could be used at any or all of the plants using asbestos. Such matters as the use of a standardized history form, rules for exchanging and reading chest x-rays, etc., need to be discussed.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
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GJS/dyb
Enclosure

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