

(Draft)

ASBESTOS TEXTILE INSTITUTE

Minutes - GENERAL MEETING - February 4, 1971

The RED CARPET INN, Charlotte, N.C.



In attendance:

AMERICAN ASBESTOS TEXTILE CORP.

J.W. Christenbury
Wm. Maaskant
H.H. Walter

ASBESTOS CORPORATION LIMITED

G.F.A. Brink
P.E. Leclerc

GARLOCK INC.

A. Kuzmuk
W.F. Brainerd

BELL ASBESTOS MINES LIMITED

Wm.J.W. Smith
Walter H. Smith

JOHNS-MANVILLE CORPORATION

N.D. BROWN
E.A. SCHUMAN
K.A. Roberts
C.L. Sheckler

LAKE ASBESTOS OF QUEBEC, LTD.

C.E. Stiefken

H.K. PORTER COMPANY, INC.

L.E. Moody
D.E. Childers
J.W. Echerd
E.C. Bratt
J.D. McCluer (Ret'd)
Nicolet INDUSTRIES, INC.
Geo. Griswold, Jr.
E.W. Russell

TURNER BROS. ASBESTOS CO., Ltd.

W.M. Deckman
H.J. Corson

UNIROYAL, INC.

E.A. Morris
R.C. Hunt
H.M. Willingham
Dr. J.H. Wolfsie
S.J. Peele, Jr.
T.H. Newby
L.F. Dieringer (Guest)

RAYBESTOS-MANHATTAN, INC.

M.Q. Scowcroft
J.W. Hawkins
Dr. J.L. Goodman
J.W. Frampton (Guest)

CADWALADER, WICKERSHAM & TAFT

H.C. Roosevelt (Legal Counsel)

ASBESTOS TEXTILE INSTITUTE

H.E. Sunbury (Secretary)

***** Minutes *****

1. President Moody called the meeting to order at 1:45 P.M.

2. Those present were asked to stand and identify themselves and to give their company affiliation.

3. President Moody asked that a moment of prayer be observed in memory of Ralph E. Smith who passed away on January 21, 1971 at his home in North Charleston, S.C. Mr. Smith had attended A.T.I. meetings for about twenty years, and served as Chairman of our Air Hygiene & Mfg. Committee during 1960 and 1961.

4. The minutes of the last meeting were presented for reading. On motion by Mr. E.A. Schuman, seconded by Mr. K.A. Roberts, it was voted to omit the reading of same.

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4. The minutes of the last meeting were presented for reading. On motion by Mr. E.A. Schuman, seconded by Mr. K.A. Roberts, it was voted to omit the reading of same.

5. Treasurer Kuzmuk presented the Financial Report. Dr. J.H. Wolfsie moved that it be accepted, motion seconded by Mr. P.E. Leclerc, and so voted unanimously. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

6. President Moody referred to "The History of the Asbestos Textile Industry in the United States" by J.A. Bettles, Jr., now appearing in installments in the ASBESTOS Magazine, and said that the Secretary had been instructed to write Mr. Bettles a letter of commendation on behalf of the Institute and its members. Mr. Bettles, an active member of the Institute for approximately twenty-four years, served as president of ATI in 1957 and 1958. Upon retirement from Raybestos-Manhattan several years ago Mr. Bettles began to collect the information for his "History of the Asbestos Textile Industry in the USA" and it has required countless hours and voluminous correspondence to prepare the "History" for publication. The Institute appreciates the fine contribution that Mr. Bettles has made to the asbestos textile industry, and congratulates him on doing an exceptionally fine job! Also, we think that the ASBESTOS Magazine is to be commended for making the "History" available to its readers! Mr. Bettles address is:- John A. Bettles, Jr., 3100 South Ocean Blvd., #618, Delray Beach, Fla. 33444, and we are sure that he would welcome comments from readers of the "History".

7. President Moody announced the election of Mr. N.D. Brown to the Board of Governors, replacing Mr. E.A. Schuman as Johns-Manville's representative; and the election to the Board of Mr. J.W. Christenbury replacing Mr. J.L. Rainey as the representative for American Asbestos Textile Corporation. Mr. Schuman resigned because he no longer has responsibility for asbestos textiles. Mr. Rainey's resignation was necessary due to increased corporate responsibilities since ~~his~~ he was elected President of his company in June of 1970.

8. The Legal Counsel Report was given by Attorney H.C. Roosevelt, of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft, New York, N.Y. A resume' of his remarks is attached to these minutes.

9. The Fibre Producer's Report was given by Mr. Wm.J.W. Smith, Director, Vice President & General Sales Manager of BELL ASBESTOS MINES, LTD. Mr. Smith began his remarks by saying that it was the opinion of the producers that the fibre situation should be exposed as frequently as A.T.I. meets, and proceeded to discuss the situation relative to various grades.

Group 7 fibers in the shorter classifications are fairly ample, but the longer Group 7's are in tighter supply. Group 6 fibers (Used in Brake Linings, etc.) very specific shortage. Group 5 fibers - Premium classifications are "tight". Group 4 fibers (Used in asbestos-cement products) fairly well in balance. Group 3 fibers - (Used in textiles) A year ago a shortage existed, but now the high magnetic iron fibers as produced in Quebec mines are in good supply. By contrast the low magnetic iron Group 3 fibers, as produced by Cassiar on the West Coast of Canada, continue to be critically short. The unusually severe winter has crippled production of Cassiar - situation may improve somewhat by June, but supply will still be short.

In regard to Rhodesian fiber the embargo has been most effective both in the U.S.A. and in Canada. It is a critical situation for

asbestos textile manufacturers in the U.S.A. because there is no alternative low iron fiber except Cassiar. The U.S. Government has a sizeable stockpile of low iron fiber but apparently is not willing to release any of it.

10. Committee reports were given by the respective chairmen:-

Air Hygiene & Mfg. Committee - H.M. Willingham, Chm.
Technical Committee - J.W. Hawkins (Acting chairman)
Asbestos Advisory Committee - E.A. Morris, Chm.
Fiber Testing Committee - D.E. Childers

Their reports are attached to these minutes.

11. Dr. J.L. Goodman, North Charleston, S.C., associated with Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc., speaking as a member of The A.T.I. Environmental Health Committee, reported that he had attended a seminar on Asbestosis, arranged by Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, that was held at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, New York City, on June 15-18, 1970. Dr. Goodman said he was quite surprised to note a goodly number of representatives of Labor in attendance.

Dr. Selikoff's staff members presented the program, which turned out to be a diatribe against industry. At opening of the meeting it was announced that spraying of steel framework in new buildings (with asbestos fibre) had been discontinued in New York State. Dr. Goodman was critical of Dr. Selikoff's presentation and accusations against industry. When questions were directed to various speakers Dr. Selikoff invariably spoke up to answer the question - sometimes quite rudely.

The second day of the Seminar was devoted to mesothelioma, which Dr. Goodman stated was a very controversial and debatable form of cancer (as to cause). He does not agree with many of Dr. Selikoff's statements and/or conclusions on this subject.

Dr. Goodman feels that Dr. Selikoff is a "dangerous" man and the asbestos industry is going to have to learn how to combat his tactics. We cannot and should not take Dr. Selikoff lightly as he has facilities for getting "facts", but gets away with half-truths, and the only way he can be backed down is being faced with true facts.

When asked if something could be done thru the American Medical Association (to control Dr. Selikoff) Dr. Goodman expressed doubt. Said there was a grievance committee of the AMA but it was very difficult to get this committee to act. Thought that perhaps pressure on the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine might be effective.

In regard to mesothelioma Mr. Wm. J. W. Smith asked if Dr. Selikoff differentiated between Crocidolite and Chrysotile fibre. Dr. Goodman said that Dr. Selikoff inferred that Chrysotile was suspect as well as Crocidolite.

Following Dr. Goodman's comments Mr. C.L. Sheckler, Chairman of A.T.I.'s Environmental Health Committee, said that Dr. Selikoff was going to be around indefinitely and we might as well resign ourselves to that fact, even though Selikoff might be prone to deal with "half-truths".

Mr. Sheckler commented on the excellent promotional type English film entitled "WHY ASBESTOS" shown to the members the previous evening, saying that there is now an Asbestos Information Association of North America. Members of this new association are some of the leading manufacturers of asbestos products in the U.S.A., but no further information was given out by Mr. Sheckler.

Mr. Sheckler then discussed the new Federal "Occupational Safety & Health Act of 1970" (PL91-596) that becomes effective on April 28, 1971, saying that Industry and its customers can well face new exposure to penalties after the law becomes effective. Outlined some of the penalties, and discussed standards under the new law. For example, the present standard for noise is 90 ~~max~~ decibels maximum, and he doubts that any textile plant can show such a low noise level!

Under the new law government inspectors will have free access to plants and records. An employee or employee group may request government to make inspection at any time. The employer is required to post conditions that exceed standards. All penalties are to be final unless contested within 15 days.

In regard to medical and health research Mr. Sheckler said that a "National Institute of Safety & Health" ~~has been (or will be) set up within the framework of the Health, Education and Welfare Department.~~ X Dr. Cralley's group will be part of it.

Concluding his remarks Mr. Sheckler said that warning labels on products were now voluntary but probably will become mandatory at some future date. Thinks that our industry must give serious consideration to the use of warning labels on asbestos products. Mentioned that Common Law product suits are proliferating in the Thermal Insulation Industry. Date that label use began could indicate whether a manufacturer had been negligent in case of a law suit.

12. Locations for meetings in 1971 were announced:

June 9-10, 1971 - Cherry Hill Inn, Cherry Hill, N.J.

October 6-8, 1971 - Savannah Inn & Country Club, Savannah, Ga.

The June meeting schedule will call for arrival Wednesday afternoon or evening, committee meetings Thursday morning, and General Meeting from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. Thursday afternoon. This shortened program will enable most attendees to be back at their respective offices on Friday morning.

The October meeting is our ANNUAL MEETING to which company officials and members' wives are specially invited. The meeting schedule in October will suggest arrival on Wednesday afternoon or evening, the committee meetings will be on Thursday, and General Meeting on Friday morning.

13. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

H.E. Sunbury
Secretary

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