Internal
Memorandum

Bendix

Date June 11, 1975 Letter No.

Executive Offices
Southfield, Michigan

To John J. Riopelle

From J. W. Armstrong

Subject Dr. Selikoff's Visit to the "Big Three"

In early May you advised me that you had heard that Dr. Selikoff, the author of the OSHA Asbestos Standard, was to have a meeting with representatives from Ford, Chrysler and General Motors. On May 16, 1975, Dr. Selikoff did, in fact, meet in Detroit with the medical directors, chief industrial hygienists and safety directors of the Big Three. The purpose of Dr. Selikoff's visit was to review with the automotive companies the results of his most recent investigations of brake service workers in New York City and information concerning four cases of mesothelioma among brake service mechanics in Boston, Massachusetts and Santa Clara, California. This is significant because it represents the first time there has been any direct relationship between brake lining and the disease.

Additionally, Dr. Selikoff presented data which showed that 24% of the brake lining mechanics which he had studied showed some type of chest abnormalities thought not necessarily asbestos related. Dr. Selikoff also revealed that significant quantities of brake lining dust are present when vehicles are relined. This does not agree with the Bendix study published last year.

Dr. Selikoff further indicated that the data that he had collected would be turned over to both OSHA and the Occupational Safety and Health Committee of the Motor Vehicle Manufacturer's Association for further study.

Attached is a copy of the data presented and notes taken on the presentation. The specific purpose of Dr. Selikoff's visit was not clear. Neil McCallum, Corporate Safety Director of Chrysler, feels that Selikoff may be seeking additional funds to continue his studies. This is based upon the knowledge that he has been receiving funds from the New York City Health Department but this source has been cut because of the city's financial bind.

J. W. Armstrong

JWA:dsh
Attachment
CC: J. M. O'Hare
C. N. Menz
R. B. Hungate
E. F. Peslar
W. L. Miron

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