

Manufacturing Chemists' Association, Inc.

(FOUNDED 1872)

246 WOODWARD BUILDING

WASHINGTON 5, D. C.

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETINGS PLASTICS GROUP OYSTER HARBORS CLUB, OSTERVILLE, MASS. SEPTEMBER 10 and 11, 1951

The business meeting on September 10 was called to order by Chairman Milliken at 10:00 a.m.

NEXT MEETINGS

Following recommendations of the Plastics Committee and open discussion, it was agreed that the next meeting of the Plastics Group usually held in November would be arranged in conjunction with the general M.C.A. meeting on December 13, 1951 in New York City at a convenient time that day or the following day so as not to conflict with the general program. It was also agreed that the two-day general meeting in 1952 should be scheduled for the Oyster Harbors Club in September as soon after Labor Day as possible so as not to conflict with the M.C.A. Directors meeting.

The Chairman announced the next meeting of the Plastics Committee would be held in Washington on October 18, at which time representatives of N.P.A. will be available for discussion of mobilization problems.

PLASTICS DINNERWARE

In a meeting the previous evening, the Plastics Committee had considered the Vitrified China Association attack on melamine tableware, and it was the consensus the M.C.A. Chemicals in Foods Committee and the public relations counsel should be alerted on this situation but that no action by the Association was deemed necessary nor appropriate at this time.

At this point the Chairman introduced Mr. Gordon Brown, President of S.P.I., who commented briefly on that Society's program and particularly their special committee's concern about the Miller Bill as it would affect the use of plastics in packaging of food. Close liaison between the S.P.I. committee and the M.C.A. committee concerned with chemicals in foods was indicated, and both organizations will be alerted so that activities will be complementary to each other in order to eliminate duplication of effort.

MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chairman then called on a number of representatives for announcements regarding the two-day program. These included Mr. J. R. Hoover, General Chairman of the Committee; Mr. Dan M. Rugg for arrangements on the sailing contest; Mr. E. J. Pechin regarding the golf tournament; Mr. H. M. Parsekian regarding tennis; and Mr. Charles Lichtenberg regarding the putting contest. On motion duly seconded, a vote of thanks was made to the Committee on the excellent arrangements for this two-day session.

WASHINGTON ACTIVITIES

For the Washington Office, Mr. Carman commented briefly on recent trends in price control legislation, the cutbacks required in lead and copper, the possibility of further expansion in aluminum production capacity, the organization of an M.C.A. Defense Advisory Committee to assist the Washington Office in advising on essentiality of projects, and the status of CMP priorities for chemicals and plastic materials and what can be expected in elimination of the favored position for these ratings.

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The Chairman then introduced Mr. F. J. Curtis, Assistant Administrator of N.P.A., who gave an extremely interesting report on "Washington Highlights" and then followed with a discussion of the supply problems of the rubber and plastics industries, with particular emphasis on the availability of styrene for these industries. His talk included the following figures on production and use of styrene:

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
New rubber used, gross tons (7 months)	704,134	705,065
GRS - styrene used, net tons	87,000	162,000
Polystyrene - monomer used, net tons	136,000	126,000
Other styrene uses, net tons	48,000	51,000

NOTE: The 1951 uses of styrene are estimated.

It was estimated that in 1950 the consumption of styrene for all uses other than rubber was 347 million pounds. It is estimated this material was used in the following:

Polystyrene:	
Motor vehicles	1.5%
Building & housewares	42 %
Lighting & communications	6.3%
Containers & food packaging	4.3%
Recreation	13.5%
Miscellaneous	4.3%
Ion exchange resins	1.2%
Latexes & coatings	12.4%
Polyesters	.9%
High styrene polymers - rubber tile	.9%
High styrene polymers - f r soles	4 %
Miscellaneous & export	8.6%

In the above group of polystyrene uses of 42% of the monomer for building and housewares, the following estimated breakdown was given:

<u>Millions of Pounds</u>	
Heating and cooling	26
Refrigerators	54
Clocks & watches	2
House furnishings	4
Furniture & fixtures	4
Kitchenware	54

The Chairman then introduced Mr. Leland E. Spencer, Director of the Rubber Division, N.P.A., who made a few remarks regarding the present status of the synthetic rubber program and future expansion plans. During the fourth quarter of 1951, it was estimated new capacity would become effective to produce an additional 18 million net pounds of styrene monomer (72 million pounds per year capacity). Some of this material became available as early as September. Additional expansions are underway but may not become effective until the third quarter of 1952. By the fourth quarter of that year, it is estimated additional capacity will be available for 14 million pounds per month of monomer, or a total of 168 million pounds per year. Part of the expansion becoming effective in 1952 will be methyl styrene.

Following the talks by Messrs. Curtis and Spencer, there was an open discussion on the general uses of styrene for plastics and the rubber program.

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The business meeting on Tuesday, September 11, was called to order by Acting Chairman J. R. Hoover at 10:00 a.m.

Following a few special announcements, Mr. Elmer F. Schumacher presented an address on "Sales Personnel Appraisal" - illustrating his talk with slides. This was followed by an open discussion with many members of the group participating in the forum.

Copies of the appraisal form shown by Mr. Schumacher and explained in his presentation were not available for the many requests made at the time of the meeting. It was suggested by the chairman that interested members make their requirements known to Mr. Carman in the Washington Office, who would endeavor to supply them from that central point.

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A list of members who attended this two-day meeting is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

F. H. Carman

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Assistant Secretary

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