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TURNER & NEWALL LIMITED
MANCHESTER

W Jones
for information

FROM

Mr. K. Neve

TO

Mr. G. R. Pushman,
Newalls Insulation & Chemical Co. Ltd.

COPY TO

25th April, 1967.

Confidential

Asbestosis Cases

I have been looking at figures giving the incidence of asbestosis throughout T. & N. companies. N.L. & C. Co's experience is frightening, and I think when you have read this letter you will agree that we must do something - and quickly.

Let us recognise two things right away. First, we are dealing with history, so this is no witch^{hunt} and second, that Newalls, with their contracting staff, have problems which are unlike other companies. Let us remember also our responsibility in terms of human suffering and the fact that an asbestosis case may cost £10,000 to £15,000 to settle today.

Here are some figures.

Number of asbestosis cases from 1962-1966

T.A.C.	3
T.B.A.	6
Ferodo	2
N.L. & C. Co.	70
J.W.R.	1

I have no ready-made answer to these figures and I shall welcome your comments. Meanwhile it occurs to me that the following points may repay attention:-

1. Get someone to compare the practice of N.L. & C. Co. with that of other companies in the way of dealing with actual and potential asbestosis cases. Others may have some "early warning" system, or a process of rotation of jobs or of routine medical examination not practised at Newalls.

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2. Ought Newalls to appoint an inspector whose job it would be to tour contract sites to see that all possible is being done to safeguard the health of operatives?
3. Ought Newalls to retain a doctor to advise on the problem?
4. Is full advantage taken of D.A.L. No. 31 which, among other things, allows wages to be made up before cases reach the Pneumoconiosis Panel?

I know that the use of asbestos-based material is dwindling but the legacy of the past will be with us for many years yet. The strong light of publicity will grow brighter rather than dim and this, not to mention the thought of £10,000 settlements, behoves us critically and quickly to examine this unhappy position.

KN/AMC.

K. NEWALL