A. About me?

MR. FORSBERG: Calls for speculation.

BY MR. METCALF:

Q. Do you know if there is anybody employed by Elliott now who has more knowledge than you regarding Elliott equipment and Elliot's historical operations?

MR. FORSBERG: Same objection.

A. I don't know.

BY MR. METCALF:

Q. Mr. Hackel, what is a hypothesis?

A. A hypothesis is something that you believe is possibly true and you go about trying to prove that it is true one way or another.

Q. Do you have knowledge, Mr. Hackel, of any instance where Elliott Company ever asked the navy for permission to put a caution or warning label on its equipment that was being sold to the navy?

A. I'm not aware of any.

Q. Do you have knowledge of any instance where any other equipment manufacturer or supplier to the navy of equipment requested permission to place a caution or warning on the equipment that was being sold to the navy?

A. Relative to asbestos or just general?
Q. Well, let's talk first with regard to asbestos.
A. Not that I'm aware of as far as asbestos goes.
Q. It is your opinion that had Elliott requested permission to put a caution or warning on equipment it was selling to the navy with regard to asbestos, that the navy would have not granted permission; is that your opinion?
A. I think that that would be the case probably. It's a guess.
Q. Basically would it be a hypothesis?
A. It could be, yes.
Q. What are the ways that a person might going about testing this hypothesis that had Elliott requested permission from the navy to place a warning or caution concerning asbestos on its equipment, that the navy would have refused permission?
A. Well, when they had a piece of equipment that they were building for the navy, they had to submit drawings and instruction books that would be approved by the navy and if they put something in there or had put something in there and it left -- was left in there, then it would be, you know, it would

pass, but if it was submitted to the navy and they said cross that out, then it would be crossed out, and you wouldn't put it in there.

Q. And your hypothesis is that had Elliott put something, for example, in its manual that it supplied to the navy with, for example, deaerators, that the navy would have told Elliott to take that out?

A. I don't know that they tried or didn't. That's before my time.

Q. My question basically would be, and you may have answered it and if you did, I just -- I may not have understood so I apologize for that --

A. Okay.

Q. -- is that this hypothesis about what the navy might or might not have done in the situation where Elliott was requesting permission to put a caution or warning label in its manual or on the actual equipment, that the navy would have said no, how would you go about testing that hypothesis?

A. I think that that would be very difficult today because that occurred 60 years ago and I don't know how you would create a good test for something that happened 60 years ago.

Q. Would one way to test that hypothesis be

to look back say into the 1960's and see whether or not manufacturers of materials supplied to the navy, in fact, placed asbestos caution labels on their products and the navy accepted it without objection or rejected it?

A. I don't know that Elliott did or didn't do that at the time.

Q. Right. And I understand that and my question is a little different which is, would one of the ways of testing this hypothesis about what the navy's reaction would have been to an asbestos caution to look back in time and see what the navy actually did when manufacturers placed an asbestos caution on products that were sold to the navy?

A. That would be a good idea, if one could do that. And I have not attempted to do that. I'm not even sure how I would go about doing it.

Q. Understood. But in any event, that would be one way of testing the hypothesis to see what actually happened say back in the 1960's?

A. Yeah, if somebody could find a case where they tried it, that would be ideal.

Q. Okay. And if there was a case where somebody had tried it, meaning to label it, put a caution or warning label on a product with regard to

asbestos and the navy accepted it, then that would tend to disprove your hypothesis about what the navy's reaction would be, is that correct?

MR. FORSBERG: Incomplete hypothetical.

A. The difficulty is you'd have to know the circumstances that go along with that because of the fact that it might be that they could get away with shipping something to the navy and it be taken off before say it was put on a ship or something like that so then you'd have to have the whole story put together.

Q. Did or conversely if we could go back in time and find an instance where a manufacturer put an asbestos caution label on a product, shipped it to the navy and the navy said, that's not part of the specs, we don't want it on there, take it off, that would tend to prove your hypothesis --

A. That's correct.

Q. -- correctly?

MR. FORSBERG: Same objection.

BY MR. METCALF:

Q. I take it that -- let me ask this, sir; based on your review, research, information, what equipment did Elliott manufacture that was sold to the