

MELLON INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

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IHF-302

PROGRESS REPORT for the week ended August 26, 1939 M.
H. AIR HYGIENE FOUNDATION Industrial Fellowship No. 259-5Subjects under
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Dr. Meller and I visited Washington during the week where we had a conference with V.P. Ahearn, a member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees. The meeting concerned Foundation affairs in general and the plans for the annual fall meeting in particular. Mr. Ahearn is to preside at our forum on industrial and public relations. Details for the forum were carefully discussed and a plan of procedure agreed upon. We are to approach John Hill of the Iron and Steel Institute, C.C. Carr of the Aluminum Company, and Frank Rising of BUSINESS WEEK, inviting them to be the principal participants.

Mr. Ahearn proposed that inasmuch as the Foundation's efforts were in behalf of the health of labor, and since a representative of labor has never been heard from at the Foundation's meetings, that he felt it was time we obtained an expression from a responsible and respected leader of labor. This suggestion conformed with feelings which Dr. Meller and other Foundation officers have held for some time. Accordingly, it was agreed that Robert J. Watt, International Labor Representative of the American Federation of Labor, would be an excellent choice. It was further agreed that Mr. Ahearn should approach Mr. Watt.

Word was received late in the week that Mr. Watt had accepted the invitation. He advised Mr. Ahearn that, "I shall be glad indeed to be with you on that occasion." Mr. Watt represents the U.S. Department of Labor at the International Labor Office in Geneva. He addressed the International Management Conference in Washington last December, appearing on the program with Lewis H. Brown of Johns-Manville, and William Allen White, publisher. He is also friendly with the C.I.O.

Mr. Ahearn also advised us of a new approach to General Motors regarding Foundation affiliation. This is through Frederick C. Horner, Assistant to the Chairman (Mr. Sloan). Mr. Ahearn has been having friendly relations with Mr. Horner on another matter, serving with him on a committee. He (Mr. Ahearn) has written Mr. Horner requesting an interview for Dr. Meller and myself. It is hoped that this interview can be arranged during the first or second week of September.

Mr. Swinehart of the Carl Byoir Associates acknowledged our recent letter and promised to check the possibilities of our suggestion that Mr. Biggers, President of Libbey-Owens-Ford, might be interested in appearing as a "keynote" speaker on the Foundation's program for the November meeting.

C.F. Ralston, chairman of the Membership Committee, advised that he has received responses from members of his committee regarding the latest prospect list which was sent out last week. Mr. Goodwin advised that he would approach U.S. Gypsum, and Mr. Lindsay said he would continue negotiations with Bakelite, explaining that he would see a vice president of that corporation soon. Meanwhile, Mr. Pring, another member of the Membership Committee, advised us direct of reactions received in approaching the Western Precipitation Corporation and Tintic Standard Mining Company. We replied to Mr. Pring, giving him further pertinent data to present to the Precipitation Corporation.

Henry D. Sayer, formerly of the Foundation's Board, and now an official of the New York State Insurance Fund, advised us of an interesting legal case in which they are interested and which has been carried to the U.S. Supreme Court. Important implications are involved respecting the whole subject of compensation. We relayed copies of Mr. Sayer's letter to all members of the Foundation's Legal Committee.

ENGINEERING & MINING (August) carries an article on the health activities of the Bunker Hill & Sullivan Mining Company. In the introduction it is stated that when the company decided to embark on the program they sent an engineer "to the Air Hygiene Foundation in Pittsburgh for specialized training..." This was an excellent piece of indirect publicity. Some of the local papers including the PRESS and SUN TELEGRAPH carried stories during the week announcing the date of the Foundation's annual meeting and the election of new trustees -- the material contained in our recent news letter. The Westborough, Mass. CHRONOTYPE and the Laconia, N.H. CITIZEN carried brief features describing the purposes of the Foundation and its activities.


John F. McMahon
Industrial Fellow

R: August 30, 1939

T: September 1, 1939

R: 9/6/39 M. Garland

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