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Research and Engineering Center
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File 259

NOTES FOR THE FILE

Individual Air Filtration Mask
Dr. I. J. Selikoff

Today I contacted Dr. Selikoff at his New Jersey office (Phone AR-8-2211) to set a date for a meeting with him, A. C. Smith and me to discuss the development of an individual high-efficiency air filter mask by Johns-Manville.

The possibility of JM's developing a satisfactory individual air mask was one of the subjects of discussion by Dr. Selikoff and C. B. Burnett at a luncheon meeting a few days ago. CDB indicated that we would be willing to undertake the development of such a mask.

Selikoff briefly outlined over the phone the background of his interest in air masks. He said it was precipitated when 3M submitted a mask which contained crocidolite fiber as a filtration medium and thus ran the risk of producing more contamination from the filter medium than from the air it was filtering. Through his instigation with the Bureau of Mines and the Public Health Service, a meeting between representatives of these agencies, mask manufacturers, industrial hygienists, and other interested people was held in Cincinnati in February. Cliff Sheckler was present from JM. Selikoff felt little was accomplished in the meeting other than an agreement that he would form an Ad Hoc Committee to see what could be done to solve the problem.

Selikoff said he purposely "drug his feet" on forming the Committee to see if the mask manufacturers would take the lead and come up with some specific proposals. They did not do so, and recently he was contacted by Earl Schub (? spelling) of the Bureau of Mines to remind him that he was to form the Committee. Selikoff called Sheckler to discuss forming the Committee, but Sheckler was away and did not contact Selikoff subsequently.

F. L. Pundsack

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