

Manufacturing Chemists' Association, Inc.

(FOUNDED 1872)

1825 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.

MINUTES OF MEETING PLASTICS COMMITTEE Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Canada October 17, 1961

PRESENT:

Messrs. Walter H. Salzenberg, E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.
T. T. Miller, W. R. Grace & Co.
W. J. A. Connor (for K. J. Nelson), Enjay Chemical Co.
W. C. Goggin, The Dow Chemical Company
T. J. Kinsella, Allied Chemical Corporation
W. C. Lowrey (for Martin Buck), Shell Chemical Company
R. K. Mueller, Monsanto Chemical Company
John J. O'Connor (for A. R. Marusi), Borden Chemical Co.
G. Murray Scott, Dow Chemical of Canada, Limited
F. H. Carman, Manufacturing Chemists' Association, Inc.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. with Mr. Salzenberg in the Chair.

BUILDING PROGRAM

(a) Liaison Committee

The Joint MCA-SPI liaison committee on building code problems has arranged a meeting for October 25, 1961, which fits in with the schedule of Frank Ambrose, SPI Committee Chairman, to be in the East.

CMA 078467

(b) Plastics in Building Committee

A capsule report of the October 5, 1961 meeting of the Plastics in Building Committee, as summarized by Mr. Demarest, includes:

(1) It was the general consensus that something must be done to backstop the SPI on the West Coast smoke & toxicity challenges regarding plastic materials by San Francisco building officials and the International Conference of Building Officials. The Committee hopes to recommend something to the Plastics Committee at its November 14, 1961 meeting.

(2) The building representatives favor a U/L survey of the literature on combustion products of building materials, although they are currently considering projects proposed by four other laboratories.

(3) Orville Pierson of Rohm & Haas Co. was elected Chairman and Edwin Edberg of Koppers Co., Inc. as Vice Chairman, replacing R. B. Akin and Orville Pierson, respectively.

(4) As of last week, the SPI had not succeeded in "pulling together" any group of members to support and participate in the "How-To-Do-It Carnival" at the NAHB annual meeting and show. The PIB Committee still wants the MCA to sponsor a plastics industry demonstration if the SPI definitely will not, and voted to request up to \$3,000 and the assignment of Mr. Demarest full time for two months to organize same. Since the NAHB deadline was October 13, this had been discussed with two members of the aforementioned Liaison Committee; in view of the fact that: (a) participation in the Carnival was of direct interest to one or more groups within the SPI, (b) there was an extremely short time for any group in the SPI or the MCA to produce a good demonstration, (c) handling by MCA could lead to criticism of setting a precedent in acting where the fabricators should have direct interest, and (d) Mr. Demarest's time had been committed for development of a primer, it was the recommendation of the Committee members and the Washington staff that MCA forego participation as an association.

Subsequent to the above, the NAHB urged that they be allowed to obtain some demonstrations by one or more companies on plastics and that they use MCA as a sponsor. The Washington office was of the opinion that this should more properly be done under the SPI as a sponsor and this was reported to the NAHB. The Plastics Committee concurred with this decision on the part of the staff and the Liaison Committee.

UNDERWRITERS' LABORATORIES

The Advisory Committee met with the project director on October 4. A brief report prepared by Mr. Demarest was read by the Secretary as follows:

The lab-testing is substantially completed. Mr. L. M. Kline commented, with Mr. Baron Whitaker present, that he is very favorably impressed by plastics' performance in the electric arc-tracking tests. Mr. Kline stated he had a very difficult time setting the vaporizer and vacuum cleaner afire; he finally resorted to blowtorch or gasoline-soaked rag (which some of the Advisory Committee criticized). The first complete draft of Mr. Kline's report is due November 15, with December 6 set aside should another meeting be necessary. The atmosphere of the meeting seemed cordial and cooperative, although perhaps not so much so as last meeting in May. Mr. Whitaker advised that any possible plastics-in-building study by U/L would not be under him. The MCA Plastics in Building Committee had voted it favored a U/L literature-search on smoke generation and toxicity of combustion products of building materials; Mr. R. B. Akin is to discuss this with Mr. Whitaker and others on October 18.

The Secretary then advised that the contract for completion of the present program has been signed for a total of \$33,000, of which \$25,400 had been paid through September 30, 1961. It is believed ample funds are available to complete the project as now outlined.

The September 1, 1961 deadline for new requirements for plastic components in air conditioners had caused no complications and manufacturers appear to be complying with little difficulty. One report indicates that satisfactory shielding has been possible at a cost of 30¢-60¢ per conditioner in the designs which were questionable in the past.

The project director is participating in a regional SPE-RETEC meeting on Plastics in Major Appliances, October 25, 1961 in Louisville, Kentucky, at which time he will report on the findings of this MCA-sponsored research.

TECHNICAL DATA BOOK

W. C. Goggin commented on conclusions reached by W. F. Busse (du Pont Co.), W. F. Bartoe (Rohm & Haas Co.), and F. H. Carman following extensive discussions with A. G. H. Dietz and F. J. McGarry of M.I.T. and Eric Baer of University of Illinois (and author of the SPE's forthcoming book "Engineering Design for Plastics").

The MCA representatives had agreed that:

(1) Revision of "Technical Data on Plastics" in the present format can hardly serve a purpose which is already being handled by other data tables and accordingly should not be undertaken;

(2) There is no strong reason for or against issuance of a supplement at this time to include new plastic materials since the 1957 issue;

(3) Based on the suggestions of the technical representatives on new format, the building sub-committee's expressed need for engineering data useful in that industry, and on the plan suggested by Messrs. Dietz and McGarry, editing such a publication would require a two-man year effort at \$25,000 per year;

(4) The objective for this new publication should be an engineering handbook for plastics which will enable students, designers and engineers to make better and more extensive use of plastics in all types of applications in such industries as building, marine, automotive, industrial, transportation, and appliances.

(5) An engineering handbook as described in Item (4) above is of sufficient importance to suggest partial diversion of fundamental research funds for an interim period to support this publication if new monies are not forthcoming.

Subsequently, and after careful study of the forthcoming SPE book and the authors, these representatives concluded that this SPE publication should take care of the needs of the industry for an engineering handbook on plastic materials; also, that further activity in compiling or subsidizing such a publication by MCA would be a duplication of effort and should not be undertaken at this time.

To assist in distribution of the SPE book and to get it in the hands of the proper engineering personnel for which it is intended, Dr. Goggin had been consulting with SPE representatives on acceptable plans in which MCA could help. He supplied the memorandum attached hereto as Exhibit A as a report on action taken by the SPE.

Following discussion, the Plastics Committee agreed that the technical representatives should be asked to consider the above recommended plan for assisting the SPE and whether or not funds should be temporarily diverted from one of the research projects on plastic materials. The discussion and decision of the Plastics Committee are reported in the attached letter prepared by T. T. Miller (Exhibit B).

As a matter of interest, it was reported that the SPE had dropped sponsorship of the Plastics Institute, although it is possible that certain individuals are still going ahead with this promotion.

ASA SECRETARIAT SUPPORT

Chairman Salzenberg distributed copies of a letter from G. F. Hussey, Jr., Managing Director of American Standards Association acknowledging support of the Secretariat for the Technical Committee on Plastics of the ISO in the amount of \$6,500 (copy of letter attached as Exhibit C).

ANNUAL FALL PLASTICS CONFERENCE

A letter from Henry Avery as chairman of the Committee on Arrangements for the 1961 Fall Conference was read by the Secretary, and is attached hereto as Exhibit D. On the suggestion that Ira Ellis be invited to speak each year and give an economic forecast, Chairman Salzenberg advised that Mr. Ellis had indicated to him he would be delighted to take care of this in the business session on Thursday morning.

The Plastics Committee asked that these suggestions be referred to the Arrangements Committee for the next Annual Fall Plastics Group Conference.

PLASTICS - INSTITUTIONAL SEATING

The flammability problem in connection with school seating in the West Coast area was considered by this Committee in May, June and September. A recent report (attached hereto as Exhibit E) from George Wash of Phillips Chemical Company indicates there is still interest in use of non-flammable materials, but there is no crisis at this time.

PLASTIC TRASH CANS

As a matter of interest, members were advised that SPI had had an ad hoc committee meeting of interested member representatives on September 6, 1961 in St. Louis. Certain affirmative steps are being taken by the plastics representatives to obtain information on flammable properties, and it was agreed that these, together with a former St. Louis building commissioner, will arrange future meetings with the St. Louis Fire Prevention Bureau head.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Plastics Committee is to be held on November 14, 1961 at the Manhattan Club, New York City. It was agreed that the chairman and former chairman of the Plastics in Building Committee should be invited to report on general developments in the building program and specifically on steps they believe should be taken on the toxicity and smoke hazards problem.

TORONTO MEETING

Following a review of the luncheon program and special guests invited, the suggestion was made that the Committee plan one meeting a year in Canada at a time and place consistent with other meetings or exhibitions of interest to the plastics industry. This proposal was approved.

WHEREUPON adjournment was taken at 12:15 p.m. for lunch at which the following were special guests of the Association:

W. G. Aird, Executive Vice President,
Reichhold Chemicals (Canada) Limited
O. G. Ball, Toronto District Manager, Canadian Chemical Company
J. H. Childs, Manager, Plastics Division,
Du Pont of Canada Limited
W. T. Cruse, Executive Vice President,
The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc.
George M. Hale, Manager, Canadian Resins & Chemicals Division,
Shawinigan Chemicals Limited
A. W. Hutchison, Manager, Chemical Division
Shell Oil Company of Canada Limited
Gerald Ray, General Manager, Borden Chemical Company, Canada
H. D. Ross, Vice President and General Manager
Shawinigan Chemicals Limited
R. J. Southwell, Director of Sales & Development,
Chemicals and Plastics Division
Union Carbide Canada Limited
H. S. Sutherland, President, Shawinigan Chemicals Limited.

Respectfully submitted,

F. H. Carman, Committee Secretary

Dictated 10/18/61
Subject to Approval

CMA 078471

Memo on SPE-MCA Cooperation Regarding the Book
"Engineering Design for Plastics"

On Thursday, October 5, 1961, the Technical Volumes Committee of SPE met in New York City to consider the possibility of MCA co-sponsoring the above-named book being edited by Professor Eric Baer. The Committee passed a resolution authorizing Chairman R. F. Boyer to discuss this subject informally with Dr. W. C. Goggin so that he could take it up with the Executive Committee of MCA at its Toronto meeting.

The Technical Volumes Committee suggested the following points as being basic to cooperation:

1. Since the Baer book is completely planned already and all of its authors selected, Dr. Baer would retain full editorial responsibility.
2. Again, because of the advanced state of this book, the word "co-sponsor" seemed inappropriate. Instead it was suggested that the front of the book carry an endorsement page written by someone in MCA.
3. It was felt that the authors and the editor of this book, as well as the Society, should not suffer any financial penalty through MCA buying a block of books at a special discount rate. If the discount from Reinhold Publishing were greater than 41%, then our authors would suffer in terms of total royalty, especially since the free books given away by MCA would undoubtedly detract from the direct sale of the books by Reinhold to individuals.
4. If MCA agreed to endorse this book, the Committee felt that we should reserve the right to accept other endorsements by recognized bodies if so requested, as, for example, by SPI.

If these general conditions are acceptable to MCA, then a formal letter should be sent by MCA to SPE (either to R. F. Boyer as chairman of the Technical Volumes Committee, or to some officer of SPE). The Technical Volumes Committee would then take this up at its January ANTEC Meeting as a formal request from MCA.

If the Technical Volumes Committee approves the request formally, it would make a recommendation to the Engineering Board, which in turn would make a recommendation to the SPE Council. Since the manuscripts will not be ready until May of 1962, it was felt that the delay in going through formal channels of SPE would not be serious.

R. F. Boyer

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On Monday, October 9, 1961, the SPE Council met in Detroit and decided to discuss the question of MCA cooperation with SPE on the book "Engineering Design for Plastics." The Council accepted and approved the recommendation of Dr. Boyer's Technical Volumes Committee with regard to this potential cooperation.

W. C. Goggin

Copied by MCA
October 20, 1961

CMA 078472

C O P Y
From:

Exhibit B

W. R. Grace & Co.
Polymer Chemicals Division
225 Allwood Road, Clifton, N. J.

October 18, 1961

Mr. William T. Cruse
The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc.
250 Park Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Bill:

This is to summarize for you what I told you in Toronto Tuesday concerning some discussions which the MCA Plastics Committee had held during its Toronto meeting.

In investigating for the Committee whether it should bring up to date and republish the MCA-sponsored Technical Data Book on Plastics, Bill Goggin and a group of member technical representatives had come to a tentative conclusion that the costs of doing so, estimated at \$50,000, and the time required, estimated at two years, might be out of line with the results obtainable, especially in view of two considerations:

- (a) Much of the data is already duplicated, up-dated and republished annually in the Modern Plastics Encyclopedia.
- (b) A very extensive volume to be entitled "Engineering Design for Plastics," now in preparation under SPE sponsorship for publication by Reinhold next spring, may contain much additional data that would normally be included in the Data Book.

The MCA Plastics Committee is therefore asking its Technical Committee to examine the subject matter of "Engineering Design for Plastics," which is being edited by Professor Eric Baer of the University of Illinois, and for which individual chapters are being written by various technical experts among the plastics raw materials producers and the university staffs, and to report back to the MCA Plastics Committee at its December meeting. At that time, the Plastics Committee intends to consider possibly endorsing the book, purchasing perhaps a thousand copies, and distributing them with MCA's compliments to a carefully selected list of engineering designers who could be reasonably expected to make good use of the book in designing articles and components to make effective use of plastics. It is estimated that this could cost MCA up to \$15,000.

The SPE Council, upon recommendation of the SPE Technical Volumes Committee, via the SPE Engineering Board, voted on October 9 to approve in principal, subject to negotiation of details, the idea of MCA becoming a sponsor along the lines outlined above, with a formal proposal to be submitted by MCA for consideration by the SPE Technical Volumes Committee at its January ANTEC Meeting. The SPE reserves the right to accept other endorsements if so requested, and the MCA sentiments expressed at Toronto were that this would be quite appropriate so long as the other sponsors were of high standing.

(over)

CMA 078473

Mr. William T. Cruse

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October 18, 1961

In recognition of the increasing areas of cooperation between SPI and MCA, I was therefore requested to inform SPI as promptly as possible of this situation so that SPI would be apprised in advance and have time to consider whether it too might wish to become a sponsor and distribute additional copies over and beyond the 1,000 which MCA will probably underwrite. In such event, MCA would of course cooperate by showing SPI its distribution list so that duplications could be avoided. If there is any interest on SPI's part or any further information that SPI needs, please let me know.

MCA's Technical Committee will also be asked to consider whether there is still further technical information with regard to designing in plastics which will not adequately have been covered in any SPI, SPE or MCA sponsored literature, together with suggestions as to how and by whom such information might best be compiled, edited, sponsored and published in the future.

Very truly yours,

T. T. Miller
President

TTM:aj

cc Mr. Walter H. Salzenberg
Mr. Frank H. Carman
Mr. William C. Goggin

Copied by MCA
October 20, 1961

CMA 078474

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C O P Y

Exhibit C

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TO: Mr. Walter H. Salzenberg, General Manager
Polychemicals Department
E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company
Wilmington, Delaware

September 22, 1961

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FROM: G. F. Hussey, Jr.
Managing Director, American Standards Association, Inc.
U. S. Member, International Organization for Standardization
10 East 40th Street, New York 16, N. Y.

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Dear Mr. Salzenberg:

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Correspondence during the summer culminated in the receipt by the ASA, on August 14, of funds in the amount of \$6500 from the Manufacturing Chemists' Association, Inc. toward support of the Secretariat for Technical Committee 61 on Plastics (TC 61) of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), which Secretariat is held by the ASA at the request of the American plastics industry.

Receipt of this money was acknowledged by my letter of August 18 to Mr. F. H. Carman, Technical Director of the MCA. Knowing, however, that this support results from the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the MCA Plastics Group and that the recommendation understandably was made only after very thorough study and deliberation, I am anxious to extend the ASA acknowledgement to the Committee as well.

It would be most appreciated therefore if as Chairman of the Plastics Group Executive Committee you would convey the thanks of the ASA to the Committee members for their consideration of this matter and for their favorable action in recognizing the expense incurred by the ASA in providing their industry with this particular service.

As you probably know the ASA has held the ISO/TC 61 Secretariat since the inception of the project in 1951. As the activity expanded quite rapidly the costs of maintaining the Secretariat and providing for American industry participation naturally increased proportionately until they reached that present figure of \$6500 per year. To cover those costs heretofore it has been necessary for the ASA to "borrow" funds from those paid by other industries for other purposes. This of course can become very embarrassing, and thus the decision of the Executive Committee and of the Plastics Group to underwrite this special service is indeed gratifying and reassuring.

The support thus provided will permit continuation of the extensive and fruitful TC 61 program and of full scale USA participation and leadership in it, the services for which the ASA is indeed glad to furnish so long as they are desired and are backed by American plastics interests. Without this assumption of responsibility by the MCA Plastics Group, a critical review of this particular activity certainly would have been necessary. It is therefore with a sense of real relief as well as a strong feeling of appreciation that I extend these thanks of the Association to the Executive Committee members for their understanding of the situation and for their helpfulness therewith.

Again, your courtesy in conveying these feelings to the Committee members will be most appreciated.

cc: W. E. Brown
F. H. Carman
T. T. Miller
A. C. Webber

CMA 078475

Copied by MCA
October 20, 1961

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Exhibit D

PITTSBURGH CHEMICAL COMPANY
Grant Building
Pittsburgh 19, Pa.

Henry Avery
Executive Vice President

October 4, 1961

Mr. Frank H. Carman
Manufacturing Chemists' Assn., Inc.
1825 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington 9, D. C.

Dear Frank:

On behalf of the Plastics Committee, I thank you for your kind letter of September 19th, regarding the Oyster Harbors Meeting arrangements. I am sure that all the previous chairmen of the Committee on Arrangements have had the same experience I had and found that--under your able direction and planning--the chairman's job is a very enjoyable one.

I think the Golf Committee did an outstanding job and am writing to them in appreciation.

In regard to speakers, I believe there should be some rule that unless one or two members have heard the proposed speaker in action on the podium, he should be looked at with a jaundiced eye. Also, a number of members suggested that we might attempt to have Ira Ellis speak to us on an annual basis. In fact, they said they would be glad to get up and attend an 8:30 meeting, if it took that to fit him into our program. I very sincerely believe there is some continuing benefit to having an economic forecast performed annually, and--if possible--by the same person. This may be too much to ask of Mr. Ellis, but there might be some way we could provide such a service to the Plastics Group.

Thanks again for all your help; and if there is any way that I can be of service in the future, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

/s/ Henry Avery

EA:ms

cc: Mr. W. H. Salzenberg, Chairman, Plastics Committee
Mr. T. T. Miller, Vice Chairman, Plastics Committee

Copied by MCA
October 20, 1961

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Exhibit E

PHILLIPS CHEMICAL COMPANY
Bartlesville, Oklahoma
October 3, 1961

Plastic School Seating

File: 8-Wa-362-61PC

Mr. Wm. T. Cruse
The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc.
250 Park Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

Mr. Frank H. Carman
Manufacturing Chemists' Association, Inc.
1825 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington 9, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Here is some information from our West Coast office on the above subject. I thought you would like to be advised. It was written by our Sales Engineer to our District Manager in Pasadena, California.

"Today (9-26-61), at the request of the Los Angeles City School System, I met with Frank Watson of the Supply and Standardization Department, to discuss plastic school seating. In the course of our conversation, the flammability problem reared its head. They are very interested in using plastic seats; but, they feel that the resin must be flame-retardant or self-extinguishing. The example they gave was when one student decides to give another student a 'not-seat'. The fire will eventually consume the plastic seat and if this occurs at recess or at the end of the school day, the fire could conceivably spread throughout the rest of the school before being discovered. They pointed out that the present hardwood seats would burn, of course, but since it is approximately 1/2 to 3/4" thick, it is doubtful that a single match could be held long enough to cause the problem that would be encountered with the plastic seats.

"I discussed using flame-retardant compounds, pointing out that although it has self-extinguishing characteristics, we feel it defeats its purpose by diminishing other desirable properties of the material. However, they would like small sheet samples containing flame-retardant compounds and sheet coated with a fire retardant clear coating.

".....I feel we can be of assistance not only to our customers, but to the plastics industry in general by pursuing and overcoming this problem."

Very truly yours,

/S/ George Wash

George Wash, Director
Plastics Sales Division

GW:bak

Copied by MCA
October 20, 1961

CMA 078477