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investigation

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

USM-237

September 29th, 1966

Mr. Thomas L. Sullivan,
President,
International Fibers, Inc.,
2490 Lee Boulevard,
CLEVELAND 18, Ohio.

Dear Tom:

Thank you for your letter of September 15th together with a copy of Eric Wormser's letter of September 13th and a copy of the article appearing in Chemical Week on asbestos.

I have not made a recent count of the numbers of copies of this article which have arrived here from various sources but, I can assure you, that if such copies represented fan mail then I would consider myself extremely popular.

First, we have attached a copy of a letter written by our Medical Director, Dr. Kenneth Smith, to Dr. Fitzgerald of the Tile Council of America and this is self explanatory. As you know, we refer all enquiries on the possibly health hazards of asbestos fibre to our Medical Director for reply and we consider his reply to Dr. Fitzgerald to be very pertinent in the particular case in question.

Secondly, we are informed that Chemical Week will print a retraction of the article appearing in the September 18th number as the statements contained in this article are not correct nor do they represent the true facts as written in the original article for presentation in Chemical Week. In addition, we understand that the U.S. Public Health Service has stated that they have been misquoted in this particular case and presumably they will take independent action in this matter. Unfortunately, editors have a tendency of reducing the word content of any article presented to them such that the resultant sense to the reader bears no resemblance to the writer's intent.

Representative Robert Watkins is engaged in a political campaign and for his own political reasons did make the statement appearing in the article but presumably he has little or no knowledge of the entire subject and is interested only in

Mr. Thomas L. Sullivan,
International Fibers, Inc.

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creating an atmosphere for the collection of votes.

Without a doubt, considerable damage has been done by the publication of the article in question and a retraction by Chemical Week will be helpful but will not correct the damage done. However, a very broad and thorough investigation is underway by extremely competent medical personnel into the matter of asbestos as a potential health hazard and some facts relating to this program should be available for publication in future months.

With kindest regards,

Yours very truly,

N. W. HENDRY,
General Sales Manager

NWH/bh
Attachment

cc: H. A. Boisclair - Box 270, N.Y.
J. E. Connor - Philadelphia
W. P. O'Reilly - Cleveland
W. T. Partridge - Chicago
J. M. Sharratt - Houston
J. P. McCarthy - San Francisco
M. W. Blackhurst - Port Credit
F. E. Ducharme - Albany
J. H. Bodder - Atlanta
H. G. Donovan - Res. Manville
J. G. Battersby - Res. Manville
J. A. Foxwell - Res. Manville