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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to Raybestos-Manhattan from Gatke Corp. RE Vandiver Brown & Dr. Gardner

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GATKE CORPORATION

AUTOMOTIVE & INDUSTRIAL BRAKE LINERS · FRICTIONS · NON-METALLIC BEARINGS & GEARS

PHONE
STATE 0081

228 N. LA SALLE ST. Chicago 1, Ill.

August 12, 1946

Mr. J. P. D. Rohrbach,
Executive Vice President,
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.,
Stratford, Connecticut.

Dear John:

I am glad to have your letter of August 9th, and especially glad that you are going after Vandiver Brown with the idea of getting some action from Dr. Gardner.

Dr. Gardner's delay has extended over a period of years, and with his plan which will call for increased activity, I see no possibility of his being in any better shape when winter comes than he might be at the present time.

I do not know how much money our Industry spent with Dr. Gardner but it must be a considerable sum. I think we started out with a five year plan which was extended, and although promises have been made I see no indication on the part of Dr. Gardner that he will live up to his responsibilities, and if it is going to take him two months to prepare the report I have much doubt that we will ever get the report. I think we should insist, therefore, on getting a report of his findings which he should be able to prepare on the basis of his previous report which we understood was not final. In this report he established that dust of a particle size less than 5 microns was not injurious. In the same report he did establish that damage was caused by the heavier fibres, which we know can be arrested through the use of approved types of respirators.

With these two facts established, and without injections of possibilities of cancer, etc., etc., we would have something definite and worthwhile to combat the claims of these country doctors who set themselves up as experts but who actually have had no experience beyond what they read in books, and whose statements have been accepted by the courts as more or less authentic because we have had no expert testimony based on such experience as Dr. Gardner's.

I state finally that if Dr. Gardner will give us a report similar to what he has already reported, and show in this

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GATKE CORPORATION

Mr. J. F. D. Rohrbach,
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.

August 12, 1946

report just what his experience has proven, that dust particles less than 5 microns are not injurious, or, should I say, have been found by his tests not to be injurious, then I would be satisfied to wait until Dr. Gardner can make a report such as he would like to make. It is my opinion, however, that once we get the report he is in a position to furnish we could let the rest of it go by the board.

Dr. Gardner certainly should feel some obligation to give us something quite soon for fear he might be incapacitated before the work is done.

They have been soliciting funds for a laboratory extension to which I have not yet subscribed, and gave as my reason their apparent lack of interest in the affairs of our Industry.

I am writing this letter just before taking a train to the Indiana Plant. It may be rather disjointed because I am trying to give you my innermost feelings regarding the whole matter which I hope you can make good use of.

With kind personal regards.

Yours very truly,

GATKE CORPORATION

Thomas L. Gatke

President

TLG:FP