PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
USG-2131

11/1/71

To:

From: Chicago #198, C. P. Kipp

Subject: Asbestos Exposures

The attached newspaper article is very disturbing because it tends to refute the theory that it takes a prolonged relatively intense exposure to asbestos to cause cancer and/or asbestosis.

The study indicates a twenty percent death rate by cancer for a group of asbestos workers over an eleven year period, most of whom were exposed at work for a period of 12 to 15 months. The twenty percent death rate is five times the expected U. S. death rate for cancer.

If this recent study is representative, then the company is faced with the following problems or courses of action:

1. Our joint treatment operations have had a high turn over rate. We do not know the incidents of cancer or asbestosis among those who have worked in Joint treatment and subsequently left our employ. However we can anticipate more claims being filed against us as people become more aware of the potential relationship.

2. Some of the Company's older joint treatment operations may not meet current health standards. These exposures should be re-evaluated as soon as possible and adequate steps taken.

3. Asbestos should be eliminated from product lines wherever feasible. Strong consideration should be given to concentrating production on Ready-Mix as opposed to dry joint compounds. Sprayon "A" should be eliminated since Sprayon "B" is an acceptable substitute.

4. Other asbestos usages of the Company and its subsidiaries would be fully explored and evaluated. This would include the operations of E. J. Bartells, an A. P. Green subsidiary which installs asbestos insulation products.

5. Product Management has expressed willingness to have the labels for joint treatment compounds refer to the asbestos exposure when competitors are ready to take similar action. I do not feel it would be a breach of the law to encourage this type of activity by competitors and I recommend our position here be re-evaluated.

The probabilities are that the asbestos industry will take the position that the findings outlined in the attached article are not representative. Even if this is so, I feel the procedures recommended should be given high level consideration at this time.

DISTRIBUTION: Dr. J. W. Zabor, C. E. Dykes, A. J. Watt, T. S. Snell, W. R. Hogan, A. R. Rump, W. W. Holloway, C. C. Thiel, J. D. Cornell, R. P. Entz, C. M. Howard, L. A. Tobey, D. F. Rohrman (C. P. Kipp, Manager, Insurance)