



Minutes
BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING
Asbestos Textile Institute
Barbizon-Plaza Hotel, New York City
October 8, 1964

In Attendance:

S. J. Peele, Jr., - United States Rubber Company
J. A. Bettis, Jr., - Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.
J. A. Brown, Jr., -
J. T. Griffis - H. K. Porter Company, Inc.
W. S. Hough - Johns-Manville Corporation
J. L. Rainey - American Asbestos Textile Corp.
Ted D. McCluskey - Tallman-McCluskey Fabrics Company
Jay Flocken - Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft (Legal Counsel)
H. K. Sanbury - Asbestos Textile Institute (Secretary)

1. The meeting was called to order by President Peele, who noted that Mr. J. L. Rainey and Mr. Ted D. McCluskey had been properly accredited by their respective companies to serve in the absence of Messrs J. V. Weber and T. C. McCluskey.
2. The minutes of the last meeting were presented for reading. It was moved by Mr. Bettis, and seconded by Mr. Griffis, that the minutes be accepted without reading. Agreement was unanimous.
3. The Financial Report as of September 9, 1964, was presented by Treasurer J. A. Brown. Mr. Peele stated that he had received a letter from Mr. Charles W. Briggs, Jr., of Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc., dated October 2, 1964, in which Mr. Briggs reported that he had examined the books of the Institute for the year ending Sept. 9, 1964 and the Financial Report as presented by Mr. Brown "presented fairly the financial position of the Institute on that date." It was moved by Mr. Hough, and seconded by Mr. Griffis, that the report be accepted as read, and made a part of these minutes. So agreed.
4. President Peele brought up the subject of the coming Conference on "Biological Effects of Asbestos" to be held under the auspices of the New York Academy of Sciences, Oct. 19-21, 1964. He asked what further action, if any, should be taken in respect to the position of the Institute towards this conference, as adopted at our last meeting, in view of the publicity which appeared in many newspapers on October 6th, in which asbestos was cited as a possible cause of cancer. This adverse publicity, released by Dr. Selikoff and his associates, is based on very limited background information, as compared to that of the asbestos industry, but is very harmful to the entire industry.
There was a lengthy discussion as to ways and means of combating this unfavorable publicity. The question was raised as to whether those who have issued the publicity could be warned of the gravity of their charges, and its unfavorable effect on the entire asbestos industry, without giving the impression that an attempt was being made to suppress or intimidate the medical profession. Legal Counsel was subsequently asked draft such a letter, (copy is attached) and it has been submitted to each Member for approval, before being sent to Dr. Selikoff, by Mr. Reycraft.

4. (continued) There was general agreement that the possibly serious economic repercussions of this bad publicity for asbestos should be brought to the attention of Member Companies top management, and they in turn, should advise the Institute their wishes as to course of action desired, and extent of financial support that might be given.

5. It was agreed that the recently published pamphlet entitled "Method for Determining Asbestos Dust Concentration" should be priced at 50 cents each to members and associate members, regardless of quantity ordered. For non-members, \$1.00 each, with first copy free.

6. The proposal introduced in our meeting of June 4th last, to amend the Constitution of the Institute to make provision for Legal representation at all meetings, was brought up for final action. Written notice had been given all members prior to this meeting. The Amendment would be added as a new Paragraph 4, of Article IV, as follows:

"4. At all meetings of the Institute and at all meetings of the Board of Governors, Legal Counsel shall be present. Mr. Hough moved, and Mr. Brown seconded, a motion to amend the Constitution as proposed. Agreement was unanimous.

7. The Budget for the year 1965 was presented in suggested amount of \$7825.00. Mr. Hough suggested that the items of Secretary's Travel and Exhibit expense be increased to \$400.00 each, instead of \$250.00 each as originally presented. With this change the total budget for 1965 amounted to \$8125.00. Mr. Griffiths moved, and Mr. Brown seconded, a motion of approval. Agreement was unanimous, and the budget as adopted is made a part of these minutes.

8. President Peele read a letter from Mr. Reycraft, which had been received after the budget was prepared, in which he asked for an increase of \$1500.00 per year in the legal retainer fee. This would make the new fee \$3000.00 per year instead of the \$1500.00 currently paid. Mr. Griffiths felt that the higher fee meant an excessively high hourly rate for the actual hours spent on Institute matters by Mr. Reycraft, or other personnel with Vickersham, Cadwalader & Taft. Further that the budget for 1965 had been prepared without foreknowledge of any increase in legal fee. Mr. Peele suggested that he and Mr. Hough discuss this matter with Mr. Reycraft at an early date. Mr. Bettes made a motion to that effect, it was seconded by Mr. Rainey, Agreement was unanimous.

9. Mr. W.S. Hough, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported that he had canvassed the Member Companies to ascertain who would represent them on the Board of Governors for the coming year, and was informed that the following will serve:

Mr. J.A. Brown, Jr., - Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.; Mr. J.T. Griffiths, - for H.K. Porter Company; - Mr. W.S. Hough, - Johns-Manville Corp. Mr. T.C. McCluskey, - Tallman-McCluskey Fabrics Co.; - Mr. S.J. Peele for U. S. Rubber Co.; and Mr. J.L. Rainey for American Asb. Tex. Corp.

Alternate copy for ~~XXXXXX~~ Paragraph 4.

Notes of Discussion by the Board of Governors in respect to the publicity release, on October 6, 1964, by Dr. Selikoff and associates concerning asbestos as a possible cause of cancer. This was widely published in newspapers.

President Peele asked what further action, in view of this adverse publicity, should be taken in respect to the position taken at our June meeting in regard to the upcoming Conference: "Biological Effect of Asbestos" to be held Oct. 19-21, 1964 at the Waldorf-Astoria. Mr. Griffin remarked that it was probable there would be a conflict of opinion by the medical profession, and it was time to consider where we stand, in view of the recent unfavorable publicity.

Mr. Hough thought it most desirable to arrive at some conclusion as to our Institute viewpoint for the benefit of executives of member companies. The question of whether those who have issued the public on asbestos as a possible cause of cancer, could be warned of the gravity of their charges and its unfavorable effect on the Industry Jay Flocken doubted that a legal warning could be used, as it would give the impression that an attempt was being made to suppress or intimidate the medical profession. Suggested as an alternative that qualified medical men within the Industry could rebut the charges. Mr. Brown thought we should publicize our efforts to protect people from any harmful effects of handling asbestos.

Mr. Flocken agreed that the positive approach to show precautions being taken, was best.

Mr. Peele said that he had talked with Dr. J.H. Wolfstie, Medical Director of United States Rubber Company about the adverse publicity and that Dr. Wolfstie felt there was very little we could do, immediately. In talking with his office prior to the meeting, Mr. Peele said he learned that one concern who manufactures ironing board covers from asbestos cloth, had reported several cancellations of orders for same by his customers because of the publicity of Oct. 6th, linking asbestos and cancer. He suggested that we might have to coordinate various company doctors thru one central man.

Mr. Bettes suggested that we might have to have a Medical Committee and Mr. Peele suggested that medical men ~~xxxx~~ from each member company meet prior to the Oct. 19-21st Conference and decide. It was agreed that the Board of Governors wishes that Dr. E.W. Smith of Johns-Manville Corp., undertake to coordinate the medical men from each member company, and see if it is possible to decide upon a common approach. Primarily we expect that doctors from member companies will be at the Conference to listen, and to refute if the opportunity occurs, to whatever extent is consistent with their own experience, this adverse publicity.

Mr. Flocken felt that we should know what our doctors would say, before we authorized them to speak for the Institute.

Mr. Fainoy stated that papers to be presented at the coming Conference had been screened about a week ago by the management of the Conference, and presumably unacceptable papers would be omitted.

Mr. Bettes said his company had already received pre-prints of the papers to be given at the Conference.

Mr. Brown asked if we were going to consider the possibility of asking the cooperation of other segments of the asbestos industry to combat this adverse publicity, as they would be powerful allies, and a combined effort could be much more effective.

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Notes of Discussion -(continued)

Mr. Peole raised question if we should ask company doctors to speak for the Institute, and Mr. Hough and Mr. Rainey felt we should not. Mr. Pettes felt that the doctors could not speak for the asbestos industry, but could speak for the Institute. Mr. Brown said he agreed with Mr. Rainey. Finally it was agreed that company doctors should be prepared to speak on behalf of the Asbestos Textile Institute.

Mr. Griffiths suggested the possibility that our Air Hygiene & Hg. Committee might recommend the formation of a Public Relations Committee, and ask the President to appoint one at the General Meeting. It was agreed that in this event, he would refer the request to the Board of Governors.

Mr. Hough suggested that this matter of the adverse publicity on asbestos should be called to the attention of top management for each member company, which might lead to a broad program involving all segments of the asbestos industry, with the objective of combating adverse publicity.

Mr. Peole agreed, that this and said the serious economic repercussions of this bad publicity should be pointed out to top management, and they, in turn, should express back to A.T.I. their wishes as to course of action desired, and financial support that might be given.

The Board concurred with Mr. Peole's suggestion, and agreed that it should be done. *Also that Mr. Peole's suggestion should be requested to prepare a statement on the asbestos industry, the release of which would be publicly circulating asbestos and cancer, based on the limited medical research as has been done to date by Dr. Hill Hoff and his associates.*