

Plaintiffs' Westinghouse Exhibit P-West-169 -
Letter, Dated January 21, 1935, from E.R. Weidlein to Roger A. Hitchins, with
Attachments [7952-7955]

MELLON INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

WH-864

Enclosure
(4)
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Pittsburgh, Pa.

January 21, 1935.

Mr. Roger A. Hitchins, President,
American Refractories Institute,
No. 1608 Walnut Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.-

My dear Mr. Hitchins:

In accordance with your request as Chairman of the Organization Committee which was formed at the conference on dust problems held in Pittsburgh on January 15, we are giving you our ideas regarding the important problems involved and the type of organization that should be established. I am enclosing a plan for the study of dust problems and the organization chart.

If this work were to be centralized in Mellon Institute, it could be carried out as a part of our air hygiene research. The director appointed to handle the investigation would also be the head of the institution or organization which the industries would set up. In this way, the work could be carried out in a most confidential manner as to who was supporting the research and no one would know what industries or individuals were contributing to the fund. This would enable the organization to get soundly established, so that if later on it was desired to come out in the open this could be arranged.

Hoping that this gives you the information which you wish, I

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Sincerely yours,

(signed) E. R. Weidlein

ERW-W
enclosures

Director

PAUL L. CARR
JULY 1935
RECEIVED

his means of livelihood for a mess of pottage and the employer has lost a valued workman. Therein lies a tragedy equally as great from a social viewpoint as the poor unfortunate who has Silicosis and one which is a hundred times more widespread. I have no recriminations for the employee who succumbs to the runner's promise of riches. He is easy prey and many times is convinced in his own mind that he is a condemned man and probably will go through life with that fear ever before him, whereas if the truth were known, he would have been a useful, happy citizen who would have lived his normal expectancy.

The silicotic is rare as compared to the legion of men who have been driven from their jobs by shysters, and while we are dealing with the Silicosis problem, let us not overlook the collateral social problem which has arisen and let us try to find some way of protecting our employees from the parasites I refer to.

To repeat and emphasize a thought previously expressed herein, a consideration of the many aspects of the Silicosis problem clearly indicates that the interests therein of employees, employers and the general public proceed along parallel lines. The employers of the country can be counted upon to cooperate and whole-heartedly work with the Labor Department, with the Public Health Service, with The Bureau of Mines, with other pertinent public authorities, and with labor itself, to reach a solution of this problem along sane, constructive and effective lines.

THE INDUSTRIAL DUST PROBLEM

A Brief Narrative
in explanation of the
Temporary Organization Committee

Admittedly the problem of industrial dust diseases is engaging the serious attention of a large number of industries and companies, and, in various places, a great deal of research has been and is being done on it.

Many phases of the problem are common to all those affected.

There is now no one place where there is available all information on all phases of the problem; and no concerted planning is being done either as to the present or future as to all of the many different phases.

Through the courtesy of the Mellon Institute (and at the request of several interested industries) there was held in Pittsburgh on January 15th, 1935, a Symposium on the Industrial Dust problem.

At that meeting a Temporary Organization Committee was elected with instructions to develop a plan and report back as to how, in its opinion, a start could best be made toward the establishment of a permanent organization of some kind for a study of the industrial dust problem.

It appeared to the Temporary Organization Committee that the first step toward the formation of a permanent organization would be to try to formulate some general idea as to what should be done, how it might be done, and what it would cost. It also seemed that it will be necessary to find out what has been done, in the many places where things have already been done on many phases of the problem, before it can be determined what should be done next. Therefore, it seemed that a program of activity for a Permanent organization should be -

- I. An attempt to gather together in one place all of the existing facts concerning the subject of the Industrial Dust Problem.
- II. A study of those facts and an attempt to evaluate them.
- III. A report based on such study and a recommendation as to the future activities.
- IV. The Cost.

The following is a brief summary of the work of the Temporary Organization Committee. The committee was organized on January 15, 1935, at the Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, and its first meeting was held on January 16, 1935. The committee was composed of representatives from the following organizations: Mellon Institute, American Lung Association, National Association of Manufacturers, National Association of Industrial Hygienists, National Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons, National Association of Industrial Chemists, National Association of Industrial Engineers, National Association of Industrial Electricians, National Association of Industrial Plumbers and Pipefitters, National Association of Industrial Painters and Decorators, National Association of Industrial Carpenters and Joiners, National Association of Industrial Millwrights and Machinists, National Association of Industrial Welders and Solderers, National Association of Industrial Blacksmiths and Farriers, National Association of Industrial Tanners and Leatherworkers, National Association of Industrial Shoemakers and Bootmakers, National Association of Industrial Hatters and Milliners, National Association of Industrial Tailors and Dressmakers, National Association of Industrial Upholsterers and Furnituremakers, National Association of Industrial Cabinetmakers and Carpenters, National Association of Industrial Stonemasons and Bricklayers, National Association of Industrial Plasterers and Drywall Installers, National Association of Industrial Painters and Decorators, National Association of Industrial Electricians, National Association of Industrial Plumbers and Pipefitters, National Association of Industrial Carpenters and Joiners, National Association of Industrial Millwrights and Machinists, National Association of Industrial Welders and Solderers, National Association of Industrial Blacksmiths and Farriers, National Association of Industrial Tanners and Leatherworkers, National Association of Industrial Shoemakers and Bootmakers, National Association of Industrial Hatters and Milliners, National Association of Industrial Tailors and Dressmakers, National Association of Industrial Upholsterers and Furnituremakers, National Association of Industrial Cabinetmakers and Carpenters, National Association of Industrial Stonemasons and Bricklayers, National Association of Industrial Plasterers and Drywall Installers.

tion Committee dated February 6th, 1935. Briefly, it was to the effect that for an overall sum of \$25,000.00 Mellon Institute will (a) gather all the available facts and (b) study and evaluate them and (c) submit a definite report and recommendation.

Naturally Mellon Institute will expect the co-operation of everyone interested in the problem in the accomplishment of its objective and any unexpended monies can either be refunded or can be used in carrying out a future program.

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Invitations to the Symposium on the Industrial Dust Problem were sent to nearly one hundred Trade Associations and/or Code Authorities.

Nearly two hundred persons attended the Symposium at Pittsburgh on January 15th, 1935.

The report of the Temporary Organization Committee was sent on February 6th, 1935, to all those originally invited and to all those who attended, and copies of the report have since been sent to a considerable number of other Trade Associations and individual companies.

It was the thought of the Temporary Organization Committee that if the \$25,000.00 were to be underwritten pro rata by fifty or more Trade Associations or individual companies, the amount of each subscription would not exceed \$500.00 and it would be less as the number of subscribers should exceed fifty. Thus would be provided a nucleus of Trade Associations or individual companies who would be actively interested in the problem, and who could then form themselves into a permanent organization which would already have the assurance of a definite amount of available money.

The Temporary Organization Committee has planned as soon as the requisite number of fifty contributors has been assured, - to call a meeting of all contributors asking each of them to designate one individual who will have full power of representation in the formation of a permanent organization.

With the formation of a Permanent Organization, - the Temporary Organization Committee will have completed its duties.

The Permanent Organization - when formed of the contributors - will select its own officers and will determine its own program and objectives, and it will be the duty of the contributors to carry out the program which will be planned. There are many problems which are now being solved by the Industrial Hygiene Association, Legal, Legislative and publicity problems.

No commitments of any kind have been made by the Temporary Organization Committee as to the future policies or program of a permanent organization if and when one is formed, except that it has been arranged so that contributions and membership can become known or can remain unknown as may be elected by the individual contributor.

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In conclusion -

A large number of people have said that they believe that there should be a central clearing house, - or co-ordinating body - to represent all industry in connection with the industrial dust problem.

A Symposium has been held in Pittsburgh on January 15th, 1935.

A Temporary Organization Committee was elected to prepare a plan and recommendation as to a permanent organization.

This plan has been prepared and submitted (on February 5th, 1935).

Whether a permanent organization shall be formed, and how it shall be formed, and what shall be its program is now in the hands of those to whom this "narrative" is being sent.

Roger A. Eitchins
As Chairman -
Temporary Organization Committee.