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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: 1938 Duplicate of Letter to Manfred Bowditch from Dr. Lanza (WRG032) with additional annotation regarding absence from WR Grace files.

METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

FREDERICK H. ECKER, *Chairman of the Board*
LEROY A. LINCOLN, *President*

NEW YORK CITY

ANTHONY J. LANZA, M.D.
Assistant Medical Director

March 8, 1938

Mr. Manfred Bowditch, Director,
Division of Occupational Hygiene,
23 Joy Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Manfred:

Many thanks for your letter of March 4. However, I do not see that it really tells us much. Mr. Dewey points out that Multibestos ran for years without much trouble. Of course, the reason was that nobody knew anything about asbestosis. I am not quite sure what he means when he says "trouble" but I suspect he means "lawyer trouble" which, of course, has nothing to do with the issue. The same comment holds good for the plants of his competitors. They did not have any trouble either, until the shysters got busy.

I am pretty certain that his third point is not valid. I have no quarrel with his statement in his fourth point. I believe that his statement is accurate and correct. The point that I wish to make is that in running down many of these so-called cases of asbestosis or cases in which asbestosis was given as a complicating factor with other disease, close investigation showed no worth while basis for such a diagnosis. In other words, it is a situation that we have seen over and over again. A man works in an asbestos plant, he has this, that or the other, so he has asbestosis.

In other words, most of the articles on asbestosis, in which anywhere from two or three to fifty cases as listed as occurring within the personal experience of the writer, are mostly so much tripe. There is no real argument between any of us on this subject but it is clear that much of the so-called diagnosis in this type of case will not stand up under carful analysis. I am quite sure, however, from what information that I have that several of those Boston cases of Timothy Leary's were very genuine.

With best regards and hoping to see you soon,

Sincerely yours,

Tony

A. J. Lanza, M.D.
Assistant Medical Director

W. R. Grace & Co. received this document on July 27, 1985, from the plaintiff as a trial exhibit in Greenville County School Dist. v. U. S. Gypsum Co., et al., C/A No. 82-3142-14 (U.S.D.C. South Carolina). No copy of this document has been found in Grace's own files.

