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(Inactive)*

October 30, 1964

Mr. J. T. Griffis
H. K. Porter Company, Inc.
Porter Building
Pittsburgh 19, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Griffis:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter received from the Executive Director of The New York Academy of Sciences in reply to our letter concerning the statements issued by Dr. Selikoff. While it is obvious that our remarks were not entirely welcomed by The New York Academy of Sciences, I think they nevertheless have had some of the intended effect. We have not heard from Dr. Selikoff and if we do, I will promptly send you a copy of his letter.

Sincerely,

George D. Roycraft
George D. Roycraft

GDR/mrc
Enclosure

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
5-44

PERCLO-Beynon, N. J.

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October 27, 1964

Mr. George D. Reycraft
Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft
14 Wall Street
New York 5, New York

Dear Mr. Reycraft:

The article which appeared in The New York Times, October 7, 1964, and from which you quote at length, appears to have been based on a paper delivered by Dr. Selikoff on October 6, at a meeting of the American Public Health Association. It was not based, as your letter incorrectly suggests, on the Academy Conference on "Biological Effects of Asbestos," which took place on October 19, 20, and 21, 1964. Obviously, the Academy cannot be held responsible for statements allegedly made at a meeting it did not sponsor.

It is, in any case, difficult to comprehend why your client should address a cautionary note to this organization, which serves only as a forum for members of the scientific community. If your client has the sense that Dr. Selikoff was not accurately reported, he would seem better advised to address his remarks to The New York Times. As to the contention that Drs. Selikoff and Hammond have extrapolated too freely from their data, this seems to us a question which lies entirely in the province of experts in this area.

The Academy's own policy with regards to the press is quite straightforward. Our conferences are open to all responsible segments of the press, and no attempt is made to impose any censorship whatever upon either the participants or the news media. We must respectfully reject any inference that it is ever in the public interest to withhold research data from the press on the basis that "carefully phrased limitations and qualifications" may still not prevent the layman from drawing unwarranted conclusions. It is clearly impossible to protect oneself against every conceivable misinterpretation without lapsing into complete silence. This it is decidedly not our intention to do.

Sincerely,

Eunice Thomas Miner

ETM/eec