

72/649-50

HCL/MW

15th August, 1972

Dr. I. J. Selikoff, M.D.
Mount Sinai School of Medicine,
Fifth Avenue and 100th Street,
NEW YORK,
N.Y. 10029

Dear Dr. Selikoff,

Thank you for your letter dated the 9th August, 1972.
Walter Smither has forwarded your queries to me

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This is true for two main reasons,
namely:-

- (1) more people have come into the 10 years
and more category between 1966 and 1970.
- (2) some of the original Knox population will
have left our employ between 1966-70.
Dr. Knox reported on a group of men to the
BOHS Committee who had worked at the factory
for 10 years or more since 1st January, 1933
and were still in our employ on 30th June, 1966.

It must, therefore, be obvious to you that the populations are
not comparable because of difference in their selection.

With regard to your attempted interpretation of Figures 2 and
3 in my paper, could I draw your attention to the first two
paragraphs under 'Discussion' on page 76. Dr. Knox did not
use the UICC classification as it had not been adopted in 1966.
I attempted to use it but without the benefit of standard films
at that time.

Both Dr. Knox and I have reported our own observations in the
light of our personal observations. The important conclusion
is that found in Table 2 of my paper indicating that the

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incidence of asbestosis (diagnosed by Pneumoconiosis Boards)
in 1968 among 335 employees exposed for 10 years or more in
Rochdale, was 1.12% (i.e. 4 cases) as compared with
Merewether's finding of 26.2% among 363 workers from the
textile industry in 1929. This result has been achieved
by engineering controls and the dust levels achieved by these
methods have been used by Knox and the BOHS Committee to
explain the decrease in the incidence of asbestosis and to
use these figures in the formulation of a standard which
could be applied by industry. No other data upon which
to base a standard was available and to the best of my
knowledge is still not available. The Department of
Employment's survey of asbestos workers may eventually help
to resolve some of the outstanding questions with regard to
asbestos exposure, radiological features of exposure and the
development of respiratory symptoms and signs.

I hope this explanation helps to allay some of your
apprehension.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

H. C. LEWINSOHN, M.B. B.Ch. D.I.B.
Chief Medical Officer.

cc: DNH/SH/SLK/Dr. Selikoff

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PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT