

FILE NAME: Foster Wheeler (FW)

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo RE Industrial Health - Survey of
Respiratory Diseases

1-4(76a-)

3-18-44
ALC-PLC

24 MAR 1944

TO: Bureau of Medicine & Surgery

Attention: Captain T. J. Butler

Subject: Industrial Health - Survey of Respiratory Diseases.

Re: (a) Secretary's Ltr: 4. -10-44, 2/27 1947 of March 4, 1943.

(b) Secretary's Ltr: 4. -10-44, 4/22 of March 5, 1943.

(c) Conference on March 5, 1943 between representatives from the Bureau of Medicine & Surgery, Bureau of Shipyard, Secretary's Office, Industrial Health Service and Maritime Commission.

1. References (a) and (b) outline the Joint Navy-Maritime Commission program for improvement of industrial health and safety in shipyards. As a step in furthering the program, the Maritime Commission has provided a survey of respiratory diseases in shipyard workers. In reference (c), a discussion was had regarding the requested survey.

2. The elements of the research, as outlined by the representative from the Maritime Commission in reference (c), are:

- (a) ECG's shipyard workers to be examined, 5,000 from Maritime Contract shipyards, and 1,000 from Navy contract yards.
- (b) The workers to be from different yards in the yard, with particular reference to those about whose occupational diseases little is known.
- (c) The research to be conducted by the Maritime Commission staff, in both Navy contract and Maritime contract yards.
- (d) The Maritime Commission to pay all expense of the research, except salaries of those employees examined in Navy yards.
- (e) The Maritime Commission to make full use of the available staff and equipment in those Navy contract yards in which research is conducted.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

FW-936

(1) The Navy to receive the benefit of the findings based on the survey.

(5) The survey to be concluded in approximately six months.

3. It is thought that the Navy can better contribute to this program if its share of the survey, the examination of 1,500 workers, is carried out in Navy operated Navy Yards, for these reasons:

(a) Navy should have direct contact with this problem in its own yards from the beginning to the end and full control thereof.

(b) Two surveys, proceeding in parallel, but correlated in their planning, execution and reports, would give two viewpoints and therefore be of benefit.

(c) Little contractual, financial or management problems would arise in Navy operated yards, whereas considerable difficulties are anticipated in the plan outlined in paragraph 2.

(d) The entire survey can progress more rapidly, as the Navy and Maritime examinations can proceed at the same time.

4. It is believed that a desirable arrangement would be for the Navy to conduct its surveys in a Navy Yard on each coast, with the Maritime Commission carrying on parallel research in nearby Maritime contract yards. In this way, collaboration and comparison as to methods and findings could be carried on before, during and after the periods of examination.

5. It is requested that the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery communicate to this Bureau its reaction to the above proposal.

cc:
 Capt. C. M. Simmers, Secy's Office
 Dr. Philip Brinker, Maritime Commission

W. H. M.

DECIPHERMENT

P2-4(768-G)

3-18-44
ALG-MLC

24MAR1944

To: Bureau of Medicine & Surgery

Attention: Captain T. J. -arter

Subj: Industrial Health - Survey of Respiratory Diseases

Refs: (a) SecNav's ltr of March 4,
1943.
(b) SecNav's ltr of March 3,
1943.
(c) Conference on March 3, 1943 between representatives
from the Bureau of Medicine & Surgery, Bureau of
Ships, Secretary's office, Public Health Service
and Maritime Commission.

1. References (a) and (b) outline the joint Navy-Maritime Commission program for improvement of industrial health and safety in shipyards. As a step in furthering the program, the Maritime Commission has proposed a survey of respiratory diseases in shipyard workers. In reference (c), a discussion was had regarding the suggested survey.

2. The elements of the research, as outlined by the representative from the Maritime Commission in reference (c), are:

- (a) 5,000 shipyard workers to be examined, 3,500 from Maritime contract shipyards, and 1,500 from Navy contract yards.
- (b) The workers to be from different trades in the yard, with particular reference to those about whose non-
-----tional diseases little is known.
- (c) The research to be conducted by the Maritime Commission staff, in both Navy contract and Maritime contract yards.
- (d) The Maritime Commission to pay all expense of the research, except salaries of those employees examined in Navy yards.
- (e) The Maritime Commission to have the use of the medical staffs and equipment in those Navy contract yards in which research is conducted.

P2-4(758-G)

- (f) The Navy to receive the benefit of the findings based on the survey.
- (g) The survey to be concluded in approximately six months.

3. It is thought that the Navy can better contribute to this program if its share of the survey, the examination of 1,500 workers, is carried out in Navy operated Navy Yards, for these reasons:

- (a) Navy should have direct contact with this problem in its own yards from the beginning to the end and full control thereof.
- (b) Two surveys, proceeding in parallel, but correlated in their planning, execution and reports, would give two viewpoints and therefore be of benefit.
- (c) Little contractual, financial or management problems would arise in Navy operated yards, whereas considerable difficulties are anticipated in the plan outlined in paragraph 2.
- (d) The entire survey can progress more rapidly, as the Navy and Maritime examinations can proceed at the same time.

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5. It is requested that the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery communicate to this Bureau its reaction to the above proposal.

Assistant Chief of Bureau
E. W. Mills

CC:
Capt. C. M. Simmers, Secy's Office
Dr. Philip Drinker, Maritime Commission