

FILE NAME: Quebec Asbestos Mining Association (QAMA)

DATE: 1980 Mar 11

DOC#: QAMA016

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Barry Castleman Notes - Continuing Investigation of Asbestos Companies in Canada

Continuing Investigation of Asbestos Companies in Canada

Having no success reaching unionists Carle and Mainville in Montreal, I wrote to Albert Dornay to ask him to try. I have also asked CBC journalist Robin Bengier for help on this (416-925-2145), he's in Toronto.

In an effort to track down the origin of the Le Doux articles in printed English version, I called journalist Wendy King in Toronto, who had given this to me. She traced it to former J-I worker with asbestosis Eddie Cauchy (416-668-8624), who has an "original" he got from noted labor activist Madalyn Peron. Mr. Cauchy was industrial safety chairman (for the union, I assume) before retiring with total disability from J-I, and he is disappointed that the government is not trying to close down the asbestos plants.

There is also a law firm that reportedly is doing research on the history of J-I and possibly other asbestos firms: Golden and Levinson in Toronto, 416-366-3791. -- Aubrey Golden

Wendy is now with a government occupational health agency (416-523-2981). She says Mr. Cauchy worked at J-I's Scarborough plant and now lives in Whitby, Ontario (921 Bayview Avenue). LIN 152

Mr. Cauchy began working at J-I's plant near Toronto in 1953, and was one of 13 men retired at one time after a government medical survey, with full disability, four years ago. The plant opened in 1948, and makes Transite pipe; they have also made Flexboard asbestos-cement panels (1958-63) and brake shoes (1953-1968). A current investigation was begun when a 34-year old worker developed mesothelioma, and the UAW went on to find death certificates of 8 others who died from asbestos. Actually, a larger number of men are known to have died from working in that plant, I've heard a figure of over 40. Mr. Cauchy is sure there were no compensated cases before 1960.

He traveled to many J-I plants in the U.S. in his days as the safety specialist. Further inquiry should be directed into what knowledge he had and shared with the Company during his earliest years at this (I have told him that Ed Rubin may call).

Through the legislature, Mr. Cauchy has influenced the asking of questions to government officials. He is sending me the list of current outstanding questions which deal with compensation. The concern is that many have been set up for rehabilitation instead of being pensioned. The difference is, once they die there is nothing for the family in comp payments.

The Beaudry Report issued by a judge in Quebec in 1976 has lots of historical information. I have never read this, partly because I couldn't find it in English. I will direct Albert Dornay to get after it and either find it in English or summarize and send the French part dealing with history since the 1949 strike.

Cauchy's copy of the LeDoux report, an original print, has no publisher listed. He has been unable to locate a copy of it in any Canadian library. As it is from East Broughton, where Carey operated, some effort should be made to discover this in Carey's records, as well as those of the other companies in Quebec. The report came out in English, and La Presse abstracted parts of it.

Mr. C is most cooperative and wants to help in any way he can.

May 11, 1980