Ford

Inter Office

Labor Relations Staff

March 21, 1979

Mr. P. E. Toth

cc Mr. A. W. Hanlon
Mr. N. A. Lessig

As previously mentioned, we discussed a Rouge health and safety grievance at our meeting on Tuesday, March 20, 1979. Don Reardon, Unit Health and Safety Representative, for the Rouge Maintenance and Construction Unit, argued the case for the union. Reardon was persuasive and appeared to be more knowledgeable about asbestos than Company representatives attending the meeting. We were also alarmed at what Reardon had to say about our use of asbestos throughout the Rouge.

He made the following points:

- The union has provided the Company lists of the names and pertinent data of employes, exposed to asbestos in the Rouge, for purposes of the Company providing medical exams to these employes.

- The use of asbestos is widespread in the Rouge and in addition to its use as a pipe insulator, it is used for wrapping electrical cable in all Rouge Substations, in the powerhouse, in the coke ovens to patch doors, in the glass plant around doors, and in DSF for fire blankets and wrapping electrical cable.

- There are 22 rolls of asbestos in new Substation 10.

- The new boiler recently installed in the powerhouse is wrapped in asbestos, installed this way by an outside contractor.

- Pipefitters and pipecoverers, who most frequently are exposed to asbestos, are not getting medical exams.

- Employes, especially cleaners who must clean up and dispose of asbestos, have been given little or no instructions regarding precautions, protective equipment, etc.

Reardon mentioned that he has recently talked about this problem to yourself and Dr. Sherman and has forwarded some information to Dr. Block's office (e.g., the names of the hourly employes exposed to asbestos).

Upon hearing Reardon's grievance I assured the union that we would act on the asbestos problem immediately.

J. J. Whelan

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