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Cue, 3rd. April 1959.

The Manager,
Australian Blue Asbestos Ltd.,
St.George's Tce,
PERTH.

Dear Sir,

During my recent visit to your company's operations at Wittenoom I had occasion to refer to the mill log book for the purpose of checking the daily production in terms of bags of fi

A very serious assertion had been made by employees to effect that the mill through-put is always reduced on the occas of an inspection by an officer of this Department. I compiled a table showing the number of bags of fibre which had been produc on each of the three daily shifts for the two days prior to, on day, and for the two days following each of the inspections made since the mill commenced operating last year.

At a subsequent conference between the Act. Manager, t local secretary of the A.W.U., and myself, some misunderstanding in regard to the apparent 'window dressing' of mill conditions w explained and the figures I compiled did not reveal any marked in output on the occasion of an inspection. Although I must con my reports to conditions as I see them, it has been a regular complaint by mill employees that mill conditions are always 'st during inspections. I learned during this recent visit that a l had been sent to the then Hon. Minister for Mines expressing the disapproval of the Wittenoom unionists to the manner in which t inspections were conducted. My enquiries revealed that the lett was partly in protest to this alleged 'window dressing'.

It is most irritating to me to have to carry out an inspection with the knowledge that if I consider conditions to within the range of reasonable environment, there will be a subs ent claim that as soon as I had left town conditions were insuf able. With the object of clearing the air in this respect I ask Secretary of the Wittenoom Branch of the A.W.U. if he would accom me while I made the allegations known to Mr. Allen. I pointed o that as secretary he had been prepared to pass on the complaint union members, and it would be necessary for me to have some pr that the allegations had been made.

Secretary Fern agreed to accompany me and after I had explained to Mr. Allen the purpose of the discussion we dealt w e ch of the particular allegations. This discussion was a depar from normal procedure but it was only way I could see whereby t matter would be finalised. Whilst it was agreed that employees

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mis-interpreted some of the Company's actions as being aimed at falsifying normal conditions, the Act. Manager agreed that there was evidence on unnecessary delay in repairing damaged or faulty dust collection appliances. I personally felt that the discussion gave satisfaction to each of the parties concerned.

Another matter which came to my notice during the investigation was the fact that mill production is carried out on seven days each week. Although I have never been at Wittenoom on a Sunday I had always assumed that reference to Sunday work in the Mill implied 'maintenance' work.

The Mines Regulations Act makes no provision for plan engaged in fibre production to operate on Sundays. I realise that it has been assumed by Australian Blue Asbestos Ltd. that Sunday production was inorder; just as we have assumed that the only wor performed on a Sunday has been in connection with maintenance.

I told Mr. Allan that I would write to you and suggest that you approach our Head-Office for a ruling seeing that the practise has gone on for many years.

Yours faithfully,

DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF MINES, CUE.

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