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represent are looking to the Metropolitan for advice and leadership. In this endeavor to set up a co-ordinating agency to deal with dust problems, Mr. Kitchins told me that he had received a letter from Mr. Gentholt, Counsel for the Republic Steel Company, stating that his Company would not be interested in this Pittsburgh plan unless I were associated with it; also that he had received a letter to similar effect from Mr. E. O. Jones on behalf of the National Foundry Association. I told Mr. Kitchins and Mr. Sherwood that I would be glad to be of any possible help in the way of advice and consultation but that I could not interest myself in this undertaking in any more active way.

Naturally, it is our large Group policyholders who have the most vital interest in this whole dust problem, such as the General Electric Company, the Westinghouse Electric Company, Jones and Laughlin, Pickens-Wether, General Motors, Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company, Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation, the gypsum and cement companies. Since this meeting, I have been consulted by representatives of both the Republic Steel Company and the American Car and Foundry Company, both incidentally, very active prospects for Group insurance.

Appended to this memorandum is a list of the various persons who participated in the Mellon Institute meeting. I mention all this to show how wide-spread and active is the interest of these large manufacturing companies, many of whom are numbered among our Group policyholders.

In a paper presented before the National Tuberculosis Association two years ago, Lanza and Vane estimated on a conservative basis that there were over half a million industrial workers exposed to silica dust and that the problem of family infections due to incident tuberculosis in many instances is a serious one.

I do not know whether this effort to set up a co-ordinating agency to deal with dust problems in industry will be successful or not. I am inclined to think that there are possibly too many divergent interests represented in the group that was brought together at Pittsburgh to get concerted action from them, but there is no question in my mind that many of the largest industries in the country are looking to the Metropolitan as the one place where they can get accurate and impersonal guidance in dealing with the problem that at present is a serious menace to them from an economic standpoint. This is true also of the casualty insurance companies with whose representatives both Dr. McConnell and I have had many conferences in the past two years.

As you well know, we have been extremely careful to keep away from all litigious and legislative matters and there is a pretty general realization now in industry that we cannot be approached on these two phases of the subject. The effect of this has been, I think, to strengthen our position; there is a general feeling that we have no axe to grind and that our activities are in accord with our general policy of being willing to help as far as practicable, in any undertaking that has to do with the conservation of human life.