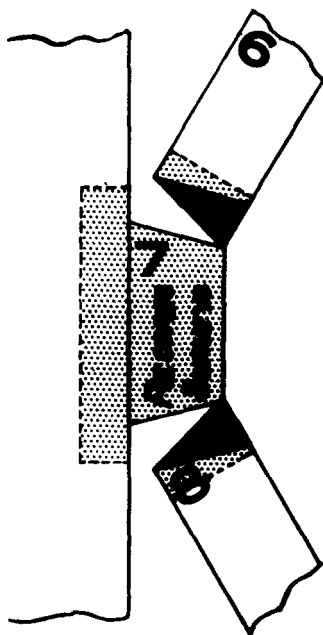

**HOW TO USE
THESE SEPARATORS**

Use one page for
each separation.

Select appropriate
tab, add further
identification if
desired, and cover
it with scotch
tape.

Cut off and discard
all tabs except the
one covered by tape.



~~SECRET~~
#5+44

Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0L2
17 May 1974

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

Mr. Barry Castleman
Center for Science in the
Public Interest
1779 Church St. N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Castleman,

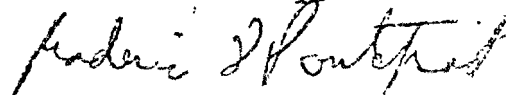
Thank you for your letter. Because of the small number of animals used in the rat feeding experiment that I described in Durham, my peers feel that the results of the experiments should not be published.

We are carrying out further experiments with a much larger number of animals but we will not obtain any results for some time because of the nature of the experiment. While we cannot publish the results of the small test, I can tell you that six out of seven test animals developed malignant tumors, while one out of eight control rats developed a tumor. However, none of the tumors in the test animals were in the gastro-intestinal tract. There were two nephroblastomas, a kidney tumor which occurs very rarely in rats, an astrocytoma (brain), a lymphoma and two other intraperitoneal cancers.

Dr. Cunningham and I have a paper in press at the moment in Nature on the penetration of asbestos fibres through the placenta, an interesting finding since it is believed that the placental membrane is a barrier for all particulate matter. Apparently these small asbestos fibres can get through.

I hope this information is of some help to you. I will try to keep you up to date with our experimental results.

Yours sincerely,



Roderic D. Pontefract
Bureau of Microbial Hazards

May 29, 1974

Dr. Roderic D. Pontrefact
Bureau of Microbial Hazards
Health Protection Branch
Health and Welfare
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2
Canada

Dear Dr. Pontrefact:

Thank you for letting me know the gross results of the rat asbestos feeding experiments which you conducted. I am very upset that you and your associates find the work unworthy of publication in the literature. You may remember me as the fellow who suggested to the assembled scientists in Durham that it is incumbent upon them to do more than just study the asbestos problem to death. Just this January the Environmental Protection Agency refused our request to take action on asbestos cement pipe -- EPA admitted that these pipes contaminate drinking water with asbestos, but cited the dearth of data on ingested asbestos as a reason for taking no action. A year ago we petitioned the Food and Drug Administration to ban the filtration of foods and drugs with asbestos. Partial restrictions were proposed, but no final regulations have been issued. Can you justify withholding your new findings from those charged with protecting the public health?

You people have done some awfully important work on the asbestos problem. But I hardly need remind you that unless others are able to learn about your work and take action accordingly, it does little good. There are several things about the feeding study that I would like to know: were the rats all fed 1% chrysotile in corn oil on their food or what? What reasons are there for not publishing the study as a qualified, preliminary report? What are the names and titles of your peers who oppose the publication of the report? I am naturally interested in any related work, and would like to receive a reprint of the new paper on placental penetration as soon as possible.

If you have a staff report on the feeding study, I would like to receive a copy of that, as well as any written comments on it that you have received from the asbestos industry. I enjoyed the opportunity to meet you in Durham and again offer my compliments on the work you people have done.

Sincerely yours,

Barry I. Castleman

*never
answered*