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TO: M. D. Burch/Ray Crepps

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

August 13, 1957

Ben S. Wright

UNION RELATIONS

Memphis - Charles White, Business Agent. Very few complaints past few years, although some men do not like to work with Fiberglas due to irritation.

Little Rock - Ralph Burris, Business Agent. One member dislikes due to irritation. No health aspect to be concerned about.

Nashville - Granville P. Chilbress, Business Agent, realizes no health aspect exists. Very few complaints over last two years. An occasional asbestos worker complains about irritation from Fiberglas.

Greenville, S. C. - Russell L. Johnson, Rt. 4, Greenville, is Business Agent. No handling complaints nor health worries received in last two years. Great progress made in handling, fabrication qualities during last ten years; however, he and his men do use goggles and respirators when they are sawing Fiberglas or are in close and difficult installations. Felt desirable for all to be covered with stories of health story.

Kansas City - No premium exists. George Goodman, Business Agent for Kansas City, wants to mail the health aspect story to 160 of his men. Feels many are concerned about effects of particles of Fiberglas may have on their health. Wants to reassure them their concern is unnecessary.

Charlotte - No regularly assigned Business Agent in this Local.

New Orleans - Mr. Hullingshorst, Business Agent and International Vice President for A.W.U. Bodam's relationships very good. Will help him out for forthcoming convention in September. No adverse reaction to handling our materials nor have any premiums been invoked during past five years.

In separate letter to Brought, Bodam said Hullingshorst doesn't care much for our California friends, so that it might be smart to have our west coast people do a little brotherly-love work with Local 16. Hullingshorst will invite Brought to International convention in New Orleans.

Boston - Four Locals in New England area. Herb Anderson is Business Agent for Local 6. His predecessor was John Hoff, now assistant to Sicklee in Washington. Local has encouraged use of Fiberglas and has set up a program of preventive medicine which calls for X-rays for all their men. They also enlisted the aid of Harry Johnson, Labor Commissioner, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to run tests on all insulation products. Fiberglas was given a clean bill of health. This local is not agitating for a premium.

EXHIBIT I

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT 37

Local 33-Joe Murphy, Business Agent, covers Connecticut. Some problem six months ago on handling. okah now.

Local 31 covers Rhode Island. Prescott Jentzsll, Business Agent. Contacts only fair. Union has trouble from non-union applicators in this area.

Local 43, Ernest Blair, Business Agent, covers western Massachusetts and lower Vermont. All seems okah. Relationships in New England area appear good except union would like to see us use a fine fiber in duct insulation.

Milwaukee - Henry Hugg, Business Agent. Has not agitated for premium labor rate. Some minor complaints on irritation but major scare has been Asbestosis with magnesia products. Two insulation workers have lung trouble that they are trying to trace to foam glass. Otherwise, okah.

Grand Rapids -William P. Wood, Alma, Michigan, is Business Agent. Not acquainted with Mr. Wood. No mention has been made of premium. Roughton has very little knowledge of the situation.

W. E. Munsey, Santa Clara - Demandsreceived from all asbestos workers Locals on the coast, but no mention has been made for any premium for handling Fiberglas materials. There was reference to a number of cases of asbestosis and silicosis. This reference was made by Mr. Sickles regarding the employers furnishing safety equipment for protection where required, a proposal that would be as much to the interests of the employer as the employee (W. E. Munsey's memo of 5/28/57 to W. H. Curtiss, Jr. which was forwarded on to Kessler and in turn to Ira Brought).

Detroit - Competitors, especially Johns-Manville, have beaten us to the draw in our relationships with A.W.U. people over a period of years. In a recent report Bill Rosenbaum received from John Trimble, there was renewed talk of charging a premium for use of Fiberglas materials. Bill B. states further that "This letter is written to indicate our concern not only of this important problem but also to indicate that we feel our general labor relations throughout the country would be enhanced if we devoted a little more time 'politicing' at the international level."

Bill B. asked H. T. Williams for his comments on 5/31/57 with copies to Messrs. Kessler, Detgen, Trimble, and J. W. Galvin of D.F.I.B. Malcolm Detleff, Business Agent, Local 25. Not discreet to talk with him on this subject. No trouble yet.

Baltimore - H. T. William's memo of 6/19/57 to Black, cc to W. H. Price, stated that Chic Calloway reported a Baltimore Business Agent had stated them an autopsy following a recent death of an asbestos worker indicated that Fiberglas in the individual's lungs contributed to his death. Calloway will follow for more information concerning the individual's name, time of death, and autopsy, and the doctors who made such statements.

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#3
August 13, 1957

St. Louis - Orville R. Keith, Business Agent; Edgar J. Kling, Business Agent. Not aware of any health problems. Some workers occasionally have minor complaints on handling. Glad to receive information and can use to good advantage. No problem if material is handled properly. Some of the younger men without experience occasionally have objections.

San Antonio- Sim Tyler, Business Agent. No union complaints on health situation. Did not comment on book. Will go along with union decisions as directed. Made two comments on previous report L. R. Kessler received about carpenters asking for premiums on Fiberglas products in San Antonio area.

Philadelphia-Andrew T. Haas, Business Agent. No current problem on handling and no premium is prevalent. Does not feel premium is a good bargaining point due to the size of the Fiberglas market and the acceptance of Fiberglas as made by the large manufacturers. Volckhausen will arrange for trip through Barrington plant with Mr. Haas and Charlie Brown.

Ben S. Wright

/ck

P.S. Memphis (continued)--Reaction to material contained in booklet was given and Business Agent is glad to have available to give out when complaints arise at future union meetings.
Boston Business Agent also stated he liked the material and wanted to be kept up to date with such information.

BSW

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