

OWENS-CORNING FIBERGLAS CORPORATION

INTRA-COMPANY CORRESPONDENCE

Newark, Ohio

November 9, 1956

Attention of Mr. M. D. Burch - Toledo

cc: Mr. R. B. Crepps - N

From Dr. C. S. Bishop - Newark

Mr. J. D. Black - T

Subject

As you requested, I have gone back through my files and my memory so far as I can, for the complete picture of the Corvette body experiment so far as I have been associated with it in connection with the Saranac Laboratory.

My first association with it came at the request of Mr. Clayton Sucker and Mr. John Andrews in April 1954, when the original experiment was contemplated. At that time there was some discussion of taking other manufacturers of fibrous glass in on the experiment as co-sponsors. As I recall it, the three who entered the project were to pay 5% of the expense each.

We first met with a Dr. Mead and another physician from Saranac Laboratory, whose name escapes me now. At that time it was my understanding that the experiment would cost in the neighborhood of \$30,000., but I did not at that time see any figures, nor did I at any subsequent time that I now recall.

Dr. Schepers says in his most recent letter, "You will recall that a deputation from Owens-Corning visited us here in Saranac Lake in June 1954, after I had drawn your attention to the error". I do not believe that we knew at that time that the experiment was being conducted with Calcium Sulphate. This is the first contact we had ever had with Dr. Schepers. There would have been no reason for any of us to authorize the continuation of the experiment with Calcium Sulphate filler. I do not know exactly when I first heard that Calcium Sulphate filler was being used, but I think I do remember that Dr. Schepers stated he would go ahead on his own expense and continue the experiment for his own satisfaction.

When we did find out that Calcium Sulphate was being used, both Mr. Morrison and I recommended that the experiment be started again with Calcium Carbonate and that the Calcium Sulphate experiment be discontinued so far as we were concerned. Again, we were to pay the cost of the Calcium Sulphate experiment to that date since it was presumably the corporation's error in sending the Calcium Sulphate to Saranac. To the best of my knowledge, we did not agree to pick up the expense from this point on the calcium sulphate experimental animals.

My next contact with Dr. Schepers was in February of 1955 when I attended a seminar at Saranac. At that time I took him a small sample

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of Filmglas (not milled). I had been asked to see what he thought of it as a material, in a general way only, as to its general appearance and potential hazard. I did not in any way authorize or intimate that he should conduct any experiments on this small sample, nor do I believe the sample was adequate for any experimentation. I understand through some error that at a subsequent date, some milled Filmglas was sent to him; I knew nothing about this until it was an accomplished fact. Experimentally, he instituted some intra-ocular and intra-tracheal experiments on some experimental animals with this latter material. In his letter of November 2, 1956 he lists this as an item of \$1,174, which he suggests we should pay. At that time I was told the Corvette body experiment was progressing "satisfactorily."

My next contact with Dr. Schepers was in September 1955 at which time Mr. Walter Aikman and Mr. Tyler S. Rogers had him to a meeting at the Granville Inn with other fibrous glass manufacturers. He intimated at that time that there might be some potential hazard to the Corvette body material. He specified that it was apparently not caused by the glass alone nor by the resins, but by a combination of the two and that he would let me know about its future progress. At that time I had him address the Licking County Medical Association and invited interested physicians from other adjoining county societies to attend as our guests. He made no mention of fibrous glass other than as a safe industrial material and talked, at my suggestion, more about the work done at the Saranac Laboratories than anything else. Neither did he mention at that time that he had had articles published on the former work that had been done at the laboratories. These articles, published in an obscure medical journal, as you well know, could have been construed as being very unfavorable for our small diameter fibers.

I next saw Dr. Schepers in January of 1956 when Mr. John Black and I visited the laboratories in an attempt to get a qualifying statement from him regarding the published articles. As you know, that visit was not too successful. We discussed the progress of the Corvette body experiment with him, and he was more optimistic generally than he had been the previous September. He mentioned additional studies that he would like to have, and the repetition of some of the studies in which the animals had expired from causes unknown to him. We did not authorize any additional experimentation of any type at that time, nor did we intimate that the corporation would approve any additional expenditure.

I next saw Dr. Schepers in May of 1956 in New York City. At that time I was accompanied by Dr. O. A. Sander of Milwaukee, Wisconsin who is a well known authority on chest diseases. Dr. Schepers agreed with the points of qualification which we brought up and discussed with him, and said he would send me a qualifying statement. Again, as you know, none was forthcoming. At that same time we talked with him about the progress of the Corvette body experiment. He was quite optimistic about it. He brought up the matter of possible studies on Filmglas, but I told him (and with some truth at that time) that the corporation felt that the possible future market for this material would not bear the costs of experimentation, and so far as I knew, nothing would be done in the immediate future. At the time of the New York City visit, he mentioned that on his own initiative he was conducting some experiments on monkeys and was in the process of repeating some experiments on rabbits anent the Corvette body material.

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Mr. D. M. Burch

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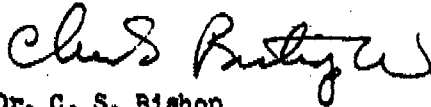
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Since no letter was forthcoming, I visited Dr. Schepers late in July 1956 at Saranac Lake, New York. At that time, with a big assist from Dr. Francis Trudeau whose association with the laboratory must be something in the nature of a business manager, I secured the signed statement from Dr. Schepers that you now have. He was progressively optimistic about the Corvett body experiment, but mentioned that he would like to inaugurate some studies on experimental animals with R-1 tubercle bacillus, expose them to inhalations of Corvett body dust, and then treat them with antibiotic and chemo-therapeutic agents to see what the outcome of treatment would be. He mentioned again that he had, on his own initiative, conducted some experiments on monkeys with Corvett body dust and had repeated some rabbit experimentation. I said that I would recommend to you that the R-1 tubercle bacillus experiments be authorized by the company. This I have done orally and by letter to you.

Since the Corvett body experiment was due to be concluded, I called Dr. Trudeau for an itemized statement of expense of : (1) the cost of the respective R-1 tubercle experiments. (2) The costs of the experiments which Dr. Schepers had initiated on his own. (3) The cost of any future experiments which Dr. Schepers felt might be of value in concluding the experiment. His present letter does not answer my questions. This, it seems, is true to form.

I am to see Dr. Schepers next week on Wednesday, November 14 with Mr. Ray Crepps. At that time I feel that we should press for a conclusion of the experiment, and an early written report and publication of the data, if it can be construed as being favorable to us.

It seems to me that Dr. Schepers is either a very forgetful individual or that his oral statements are to be taken with some skepticism. His most recent letter only serves to heighten this impression. If I can in any way further clarify this matter, please let me know.


Dr. C. S. Bishop

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