

FILE NAME: RT Vanderbilt (RTV)

DATE: 1973 Jan 18

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo RE Telephone Convo with William Ashton, J&J. Upset about RTV's Attempts to Re-define Asbestos & other Things

INTER - OFFICE MEMORANDUM

PAM

TO : S. Speil DATE : January 18, 1973

FROM : R.S. Lamar

SUBJECT : Telephone conversation FOLLOW-UP : *[Signature]*

1/16/73 with William Ashton, Johnson & Johnson

As you know, we have been working with Bill Ashton on the possible joint development of Canadian Magnesite talc with J-M and J&J.

Bill probably knows as much about talc as anyone. He is very honest and quite outspoken sometimes in expressing his opinion. He is a great person!

Bill Ashton is very upset about what R.T. Vanderbilt Company is trying to do through the Talc Producer's Association, and more particularly, what they are attempting to do by having Alan Harvey made chairman of the A.S.T.M. sub-committee to re-define "asbestos". According to Ashton, they also hope to define "talc" through this same committee.. This is what has Ashton really upset!

I know that both you and I came away from our January 11, 1973 meeting at R.T. Vanderbilt Company, New York City not agreeing with their definition of "tremolite". They are playing with words and ignoring facts.

Ashton said today that they (Vanderbilt) plan to use this same A.S.T.M. committee to re-define talc as:

1. Pure talc mineral (never found in nature).
2. Commercial talc which is always associated with tremolite.

Both definitions are not true but are obvious aimed at strengthening Vanderbilt's marketing position. These are of deliberate attempts by Vanderbilt to bend the truth.

We have seen numerous samples of natural pure talc mineral.

Many commercial talcs, even though they are not pure talc minerals, do not contain tremolite.

I do not believe that we should allow Vanderbilt to proceed unchallenged with this type of approach. It might be very worthwhile if you were to talk with Bill Ashton about all of this prior to the forthcoming Talc Producer's Association meeting on February 5, at R.T. Vanderbilt Company offices New York City.

-2-

It our very strong belief that J-M should not endorse something we know to be untrue even if it may help us in our present difficult position with respect to tremolite.

Sincerely,

R.S. Lamar

RSL:lk

cc: W.L. VanDerbeek
P.A. Martinson ✓
J.M. Sharratt
W.C. Streib
H.R. Keefe
E.B. Smith
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