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Minutes
GENERAL MEETING
Asbestos Textile Institute
June 10, 1966
Barbizon-Plaza Hotel, New York, N.Y.

In Attendance:

AMERICAN ASBESTOS TEXTILE CORP.
J.L. Rainey
J.L. Christenbury

ASBESTOS CORPORATION LTD.
A.C. Steele
J.L. Alexander (A.C.S. Ltd.)

BELL ASBESTOS MINES LTD.
Wm. J.W. Smith
R. Dodds-Hebron

JOHN-MANVILLE CORP.
W.S. Hough
E.A. Schuman
P.A. Rogers
C.L. Sheckler
W.C. Atkinson

CASBARI ASBESTOS CORP. LTD.
T.T. Tigert

CADWALADER, WICKERSHAM & TAFT
P. Jay Flocken (Legal Counsel)

ASBESTOS TEXTILE INSTITUTE
H.E. Sunbury (Secretary)

ASTI Headquarters Staff
P.J. Smith

GARLOCK, INC.
G.E. Houghton
- - Olson

H.K. PORTER COMPANY, INC.
AP. Gouveia
J.D. McClure

RAYBESTOS-MANHATTAN, INC.
J.A. Brown, Jr.
J.A. Bettes, Jr.
L.C. Williams
J.F. Wronski
R.B. Smith
J.W. Hawkins
J.Q. Scowcroft

TALLMAN-McCLUSKEY FABRICS CO.
J.L. Mitchell
Ted D. McCluskey

UNITED STATES RUBBER COMPANY
A.C. Link
S.J. Peele, Jr.
E.A. Morris
Dr. J.H. Wolfsie
W.C. Hitchcock

U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
Dr. L.J. Cralley

NICOLET INDUSTRIES
R.P. Griffin

Luncheon Guests

Mrs. J.A. Bettes, Jr., Mrs. S.J. Peele, Jr., Mrs. W.C. Atkinson
W.C. Hitchcock, U.S. Rubber Co., New York
W.A. Singleterry, U.S. Rubber Co., New York
R.P. Griffin, Nicolet Industries

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**** MINUTES ****

1. President John A. Brown, Jr., called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. and asked each person present to stand and identify himself and his company affiliation.
2. The minutes of the last meeting were presented for reading. Mr. Peele moved that the reading be omitted, seconded by Mr. Atkinson and so voted.

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3. The Financial Report was presented by Mr. E.A. Schuman, Treasurer. Mr. Peele moved that it be accepted, seconded by Mr. Hough, and it was so voted unanimously. The report is attached.

4. P.Jay Flocken, legal counsel, presented a report entitled 'Some Aspects of the Legal Problems on Asbestos Publicity: Grounds for Possible Libel Action and Standing to Sue'. Mr. Flocken referred to a recent example of statements made on a radio broadcast and then discussed the general problems involved in bringing an action for libel where the product or manufactured article has been named but no particular manufacturer has been named. Counsel discussed briefly the New York Court of Appeals' rulings in Drug Research Corp. v. Curtis Pub. Co., 7 N.Y.2d 435, and Harwood Pharm. Co. v. Nat. Broadcasting Co., 9 NY.2d 460. In conclusion, it was stated that without either a specific and direct reference to a particular plaintiff or necessarily implying plaintiff's fraud or deceit in putting a dangerous product upon the market, the probability of success of a libel suit in the circumstances referred to would be difficult to assure.

5. Mr. A.C. Steele, Asbestos Corporation, Ltd., presented an interesting report, on behalf of the asbestos fibre producers, concerning supply and demand for raw asbestos fibre. He mentioned the current shipping strike, which if long continued, could have a most adverse effect on mine operations.

6. Dr. J.H. Wolfsie, Corporate Medical Director, United States Rubber Company, was the Guest Speaker, and his subject was "Asbestos and Health".

Dr. Wolfsie referred to the alarming information that has appeared in the lay press concerning the alleged deleterious effects of asbestos on the health of the public. Apropos of this, some of the highlights of the present state of knowledge on the effects of asbestos on health were reviewed. Dr. Wolfsie read excerpts from certain news releases, and said that he could find many weaknesses in the statements made.

Dr. Wolfsie described the development of a preventive medical program to protect the health of employees from possible adverse effects of exposure to asbestos, and gave a brief account of the development of the present preventive health program in the United States Rubber Company for its asbestos employees.

An extensive question and answer period followed Dr. Wolfsie's talk, and our members were most appreciative of the privilege to hear him.

7. The committee reports were given by the chairmen of their respective committees as listed below. The full text of their reports is attached to these minutes.

Air Hygiene & Mfg. Committee - W.C. Atkinson, Chairman

Sales Promotion Committee - W.S. Hough, Chairman

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Technical Committee - J.D. McCluer, Chairman

Fiber Testing Committee - J.F. Wronski, Chairman

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8. A "CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION" in the form of a Scroll was presented to Mr. John A. Bettles, Jr., on behalf of the members, by President Brown.

Mr. Bettles, better known as "Jack" to his many friends in the asbestos industry, is planning to retire in July 1966 from his position as Manager, Asbestos Textile Division, Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.

Jack Bettles is a past president of the Institute, and has served it in many other capacities as well during his more than twenty years of faithful attendance at our meetings.

In accepting the Scroll, Jack expressed his great appreciation for it and also for the most enjoyable private cocktail party held in his honor on Wednesday evening, June 8th.

Jack stressed the value of the Institute as an aid to management training, and pointed out that getting to know each other is most important, as it builds confidence. He mentioned that the Institute has been of great value in bringing the mining industry in close contact with the asbestos textile industry, to their mutual advantage.

As a suggestion, Jack believes that our industry should spend more time promoting new uses for asbestos, and less time in defensive tactics against competitors.

Immediately after his retirement, about July 14th, Jack and his most attractive wife, Helen, will leave for an extended auto trip to the far West.

We will greatly miss his counsel and advice on Institute matters, his leadership in our industry, and the opportunity for personal contact with him. Our members wish him a most happy retirement!

9. The next meeting of the Institute will be held at The Homestead, Hot Springs, Va., on October 6th and 7th, (Arrival Oct. 5th).

This is the Annual Meeting, and The Homestead was selected as being a delightful spot to bring the wives! Reservations are required thirty days in advance. So, plan to bring your wife, and help to make this Annual Meeting the Biggest and Best ever!

10. There being no further business to come before this meeting, a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to adjourn. The luncheon that followed the meeting was made more enjoyable by presence of several wives as our guests.

Respectfully submitted,

H.E. Sunbury
Secretary

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