

FILE NAME: Metropolitan Life (ML)

DATE: 1933 Feb 21

DOC#: ML113

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to Mr. Cummings from Dr. Harbaugh
Stating the Paper Would be Approved if All Geographic References Were
Deleted

Date: 2/21/33

Title: Letter

Author: Harbaugh

Receiver: Cummings

Comments:

"While the members of the Board feel that the data contained in your paper could be made use of by unscrupulous persons in a manner most damaging to the industry even though the paper is made unidentifiable as to the location [studied], they do appreciate your point of view and also the significance of your scientific contribution, and they do not wish to be unreasonable or unfair in the matter of publication of the paper."

Harbaugh went on to say that they would approve the paper if all geographic references were deleted. For example the title would be changed from "Studies on Silicosis Occurring in a Southwestern Mining Community" to Studies on Silicosis Occurring in a Metal Mining District in the United States."

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Copy for Ex. A. J. Lanza.

February 21, 1938.

Mr. Donald H. Gossings, Asst. Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Room 100,
Department of Justice, Wash., D.C.

Dear Mr. Cummings:

I have finally got an expression of opinion from the members of our Board of Directors regarding your letter of February 2nd.

While the members of the Board feel that the idea contained in your paper could be made use of by unscrupulous persons in a manner very damaging to the industry even though the paper is "not unidentifiable" in the least manner, they do appreciate your point of view and value the significance of your original contribution, and they do wish it to be accessible or useful in the matter of publication of this paper.

In line with your suggestion, they feel that it is reasonable to say that it is offered to the publication of your paper if there is delay in your work. The title "Speaking in Silence" occurring in a Metal Mining Newsletter in the United States," is suggested, rather than in a Southern States Mining Community.

I went through the paper with the idea of making some suggestions on the necessary deletions, but it became apparent that you would need to make so many revisions that I felt you would make them better with a fresh hand. It will require the deletion of references to Oklahoma, Ottawa County, Joplin, lead and zinc, persons, institutions (including this association and the slide) and various other matters. After you have revised the manuscript so should like the opportunity to inspect it before it is written the desired and had been accomplished, since there might be some delay in case of the delays involved. I assume you should have used not delay is longer than to still is have not back.

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Donald E. Cummings.

I fully appreciate your position in this whole matter for I am extremely interested in the progress of scientific work. I believe that the publication of the paper in this form will not detract from its fundamental value to those who are really interested in it from a scientific standpoint.

Incidentally, I recently discovered the lost copy which you first sent me.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

M. D. Harbaugh
M. D. Harbaugh, Jr.

C.C.
Dr. A. J. Lanza
Dr. R. E. Sayers.

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