PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

MET-279

June 12, 1945

[redacted]
Assistant Vice-President, Welfare

Mr. Ivan Sabourin
Aldred Building
Montreal, Que., Canada

Dear Ivan:

One or two recent developments prompt me to write you again about Thetford Mines. Our good friend, Bill Fehnel, just before leaving to go up to Canada again told me of the very wonderful care that you took of him and Mr. Petrick on their last visit. I certainly envied their opportunity of being with you.

Dr. Burnette of our Canadian Office whom you have met, I believe, is down here today with Father Emile Bouvier of the University of Montreal to give the latter an opportunity of meeting some of the people in our health and welfare services. I had a chance to talk with Father Bouvier and learned that the suggestion had been made to you that one of Father's Bouvier's students who did some work last summer at Asbestos would be available again this summer. I think if you could persuade the mine operators group in Thetford to invite this young man to Thetford to study the living and working conditions, it would be a constructive thing to do. As you know, from the study we made of tuberculosis mortality in Thetford, we drew the conclusion that the problem was a community one, but we had practically no evidence which described the social and economic conditions of the community. Such data is important, not only for correlation with the mortality study that we have made but also in connection with any morbidity or case-finding which Dr. Cartier will undertake. Moreover, the information to be gained by such a survey of the environment and habits of the community is essential for a health education program which I think eventually must be undertaken if the tuberculosis problem is to be successfully attacked in Thetford. I would certainly think it to the advantage of the asbestos operators to sponsor this study which could be done under the aegis of the University of Montreal. The expense involved in underwriting this would be negligible. I expect for the two or three months it might be at the rate of $25 or $30 a week. It would seem to me that no small outcome of such a survey might be to further the rapport between industry and the community leaders such as the clergy, physicians, and labor leaders since part of the study would necessarily involve interviews with such individuals.

I expect that Dr. Lanza will be visiting Canada the end of the month in connection with some industrial hygiene problem of the Canadian Army. He expects to be in Montreal for a day or two. I hope that he can see you and possibly get down to Thetford Mines and see Dr. Cartier and the others there that you would feel he should see. I am sure that he could give some very valuable advice concerning some of the problems that Dr. Cartier must be facing. With kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

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Assistant Vice-President, Welfare

Cc to Dr. Burnette, Father Bouvier