PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

KG-342

GOLD BOND BUILDING PRODUCTS
DIVISION OF NATIONAL GYPSUM COMPANY
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202

ALBERT H. FAY
VICE PRESIDENT - RESEARCH AND MARKETING

February 2, 1973

Mr. A. Victor Abnee, Jr.
Executive Director
Gypsum Association
201 North Wells Street
Chicago, IL 60606

Re: Asbestos Dust in Joint Compounds

Dear Vic:

As Jack Hayes has suggested, I am enclosing a copy of the New York Times' magazine article of January 21, by reporter Sherrill. (See last page). Dr. Selikoff has been extremely active and successful in publicizing asbestos health problems. Now he has taken off on asbestos dust in joint compounds. You will note in the article he has already gone to the Painters' Union in New York.

Ready Mixed joint compounds do not create asbestos dust in the wet stage and no fibers are released in mixing. However, with the dry compounds, fibers can be released in mixing. With both types, though, sanding operations release fibers to the atmosphere.

Whether or not the quantity of fibers released during mixing and sanding operations conform to the new OSHA Standards is not known. Actually, we do not know whether we have a problem or not or whether it is as serious as Dr. Selikoff claims.

However, I am sure with Dr. Selikoff's aggressive Public Relations Program, this will be brought to the attention of many.

We feel that an investigative program under the direction of a special committee is needed to determine how much of a problem we have.

Rather than each company testing individually, we are suggesting that the Gypsum Association have an outside Laboratory make such tests, and certify the results on an industry basis.

This will solve two problems:

a) Cost of duplicate testing

b) Uniformity of industry results

We strongly recommend, and Jack Hayes agrees, that such a program should be instituted by the Gypsum Association.

Don Hamme of our Company can be helpful in recommending a program and testing laboratory candidates.

Kind regards.

Sincerely,

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P.S. I have also attached Matt Swetonic's reply to the article. Matt is the Executive Director of the Asbestos Information Association/North America, 22 East 40th Street, New York, NY 10017.

cc: J.P. Hayes