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PPG Document Memo from Dr. Grant med. Director

FOR RECORD

TO: Leo H. Grant, M.D.

SUBJECT: Asbestos and Fiber Glass Medical Research - April 12, 1966 Meeting

1. Dr. Robert T. deTreville, Managing Director of the Industrial Hygiene Foundation, arranged the subject meeting of member companies who had an interest in these subjects. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a medical research proposal by the Industrial Hygiene Foundation in hopes of obtaining additional financial support from the persons represented in this meeting. Attachment 1 is a list of the persons present at the meeting. Attachment 2 is a letter from Dr. deTreville containing both a draft of the research project proposal and a contractual agreement.

2. The following subjects were discussed during the meeting in addition to a detailed discussion of the proposed research project:

a. Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, a physician at the Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York, has made unwarranted and unscientifically based claims concerning the health hazards associated with the use of asbestos and fiber glass materials in the construction industry. He uses as a basis for his claims a three-year study he has been conducting for the Insulation Union Workers. His claims have been given greater creditability because of a $325,000 research grant he has recently received from the United States Public Health Service to study the health aspects of asbestos and fiber glass. Dr. Otto Besse is the Director of the Division of Research Grants of the National Institutes of Health whose division authorized Dr. Selikoff's grant. The Division of Occupational Health of the United States Public Health Service, according to Dr. Lewis J. Cralley, feels that Dr. Selikoff's claims are not scientifically based. In fact, the work of Dr. Cralley on the environmental aspects refutes the work done by Dr. Selikoff. However, Dr. Cralley's work has not received the publicity that Dr. Selikoff's work has. The Division of Occupational Health has not tried to interfere with Dr. Selikoff's research grant. They are, however, calling to the attention of the USPHS Contract Monitor the statements that Dr. Selikoff has made in the past which are considered unscientifically based. They will continue to do this in the future.

b. Industry has not accomplished and/or published in-plant environmental studies nor research laboratory investigations which could be used to refute Dr. Selikoff's claims. The Johns-Manville Corporation has been doing environmental

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and medical studies on their asbestos workers for the past 25 years and their fiber glass workers for the past 3 years. This work was done on an individual plant basis and has not been brought together for study. Owens-Corning [illegible] Company has performed a study in their Newark, Ohio Plant a few years ago, but this study has not been published for publication as yet. There is considerable reluctance on the part of a company to publish such information concerning their company in the scientific literature if it is identified as their company's data. This has been an important factor in keeping such data out of the literature which, if presented, would serve to refute Dr. Selikoff's claims. Dr. Selikoff's activities have stimulated an urgent need for industry to contribute its experience to the scientific literature. This could be done on an industry wide basis through the Industrial Hygiene Foundation preserving the anonymity of the individual participating companies.

c. It was felt the most serious effect of Dr. Selikoff's claims have been on the customer and general public relations. The public will hesitate to use a product that is purported to be associated with serious health implications.

d. Johns-Manville Corporation has paid off on five or six mesothelioma cases where they were associated with significant pulmonary fibrosis and massive dust exposures. They cost on an average of $46,000 per case.

e. The Division of Occupational Health of the USPHS has spent $125,000 per year for environmental studies on asbestos. There have been no funds available for associated medical studies.

f. The Research Grants Division of the USPHS is supporting two other asbestos studies at the present time. Dr. Vorwald of Wayne State University is using radioactive tagged asbestos particles in order to study the fate of these particles when they reach the lungs. The other study is by Dr. Clark Cooper who is performing a study of the construction industry in San Francisco with reference to the health hazard associated with asbestos and fiber glass use. This latter study will be similar to Dr. Selikoff's study which was performed on the East Coast.

g. A point was made that the health hazard to workers involved in the manufacturing of asbestos and fiber glass products is not comparable to the health hazard of the construction workers who use these products. Much higher dust exposures are experienced by the construction workers.

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