Thetford Mines, companies "do not wish to insure their employees under group insurance plans, precisely because of the too great risk involved." While workmen's compensation exists, the compensation is not adequate. The union attaches to its rebuttal brief a transcript of a speech by Dr. Alexandre Sirois of Thetford Mines in which he affirms that asbestosis is an industrial disease.

Dr. Sirois has been a physician for the Anti-Tuberculosis League for 20 years and is a sanitary engineer for the County of Megantic. In his speech he states that Dr. Murray first described asbestosis in 1900, and the first case was cited in 1924 and 1928. "[I]t [is] necessary to work at least 7 years in an atmosphere saturated with asbestos, among very fine dust, in order to contract asbestosis." Baggers and drillers are most likely to contract it. Asbestosis is caused chiefly through chemical action. "It is an insidious disease which develops slowly." Dr. Sirois then discusses the essential elements in making a diagnosis of asbestosis. He states that x-rays are difficult to read. He then discusses disease prevention. Then, replying to questions from the audience, "Dr. Sirois expressed the opinion that the asbestos dust in the town is not a danger, but a nuisance."

Bell Asbestos responds to the union's demands by telling the War Board that the presence of asbestos dust in the industry "does not constitute an occupational hazard to any appreciable degree." Bell also argues that the necessity of maintaining wage uniformity within the asbestos industry is imperative if the industry is to survive.

1944 Vermiculite Dust Health Hazard: Risk to Shipyard Workers. T.H. Colter, Vice President of Universal Zonolite Insulation Company writes to Lieutenant L.F. Andres of the Philadelphia Navy Yard in response to Lieutenant Andres inquiry regarding any possible health hazard to shipyard workers resulting from inhalation of Vermiculite dust from the spraying of Vermiculite anti-sweat coating on board ships. Colter assures Andres there is no evidence indicating that Vermiculite dust is a health hazard either at the plants or at their mining operations. He refers to a letter from the Montana State Board of Health (a copy is not attached) regarding Zonolite's mining operation. In reference to the letter, Colter says it concludes there is no dust hazard of significance in Zonolite's their Vermiculite manufacturing plant. He reiterates that Vermiculite dust is not a health hazard and that to his knowledge, Vermiculite has never caused silicosis or any other type of respiratory irritation.

1944 Plantworker X-ray Study; Attitude re Research. Dr. L. Gardner writes Dr. R.H. Stevenson (J-M) on May 19, 1944, requesting permission from J-M to allow Dr. Gardner and Dr. Vestal (North Carolina State Department of Health) to come to Quebec to review x-ray films of plant workers. Dr. Gardner wishes to contrast the negative findings in Canadian mills with the positive findings in American spinning