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MEMORANDUM



TO: W. J. BROWN

FROM: D. F. ROHRMAN

January 25, 1971

FILE: 900/342A

RE: USG Asbestos Hazard

Last Monday, January 18, Paul Kipp called and informed me that the new organization had been created to deal with the adverse publicity generated against the asbestos industry. The organization, the Asbestos Information Committee of North America, was actually established last fall primarily by Johns Manville and Certainteed Corporation. USG was not invited to participate in the formation of the Committee. The Committee was set up to disseminate general information to users of raw asbestos and to counteract the adverse publicity and "scare tactics" of Dr. Irving Selikoff and his colleagues. The Committee will propagandize asbestos' good points and attempt to explain away the hazards associated with that substance.

The next meeting of the Information Committee will be in late January and it may expand its membership at that time to include such companies as USG, should USG be interested. Johns Manville has either pledged or given $150,000 to the Committee to finance such meetings. Al Fay of National Gypsum is

involved in the meeting as a representative of the Asbestos and Cement Products Association, of which he is President. Mr. Fay apparently has an agreement with Paul Kipp to keep him informed of developments within the Committee. USG Naturally, USG is concerned with the presence of asbestos in joint treatment compound and the same concern is evidenced among the some 87 manufacturers who make such products. Mr. Kipp sees this Asbestos Information Committee as a means by which the joint treatment manufacturers could develop uniform labeling with standardized warnings. It had been suggested, as you will remember, that the Gypsum Association be used as a vehicle whereby uniform labeling could be formulated. I will keep you informed as this matter develops.

D.F.R.

cc: Paul Kipp, USG
SBH
SHA