MUTUAL CHEMICAL COMPANY OF AMERICA - 270 MADISON AVENUE - NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

MET-571

August 2, 1951

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. John Sargent, Executive Vice President
Diamond Alkali Company
300 Union Commerce Building
Cleveland 14, Ohio

Dear Jack:

With reference to Dr. Lanza's letter of July 31 addressed to members of our industry's Hygiene Committee, copy of which was sent to your Mr. W. W. Cooke, I want to give you a little background of the Washington meeting which Dr. Lanza attended and at which, in my opinion, he did an outstanding job for the industry.

As you probably know, Dr. Mancuso who is well known to you and Dr. Hueper of the National Cancer Institute collaborated in the preparation of a Report setting forth their findings and unfortunately, in some cases, their opinions concerning the effects of exposure to chromate dusts. This Report, before publication of course, was submitted to Dr. Miller, Head of the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the Public Health Service who discussed it informally with Dr. Lanza and agreed to give Dr. Lanza a copy with a view to obtaining Dr. Lanza's opinion. Perusal of the Report caused Dr. Lanza to take exception to much of its contents, as a result of which he, Mr. Waters (who is counsel for us as well as Chairman of the legal committee of the Industrial Hygiene Foundation, our vice president, Mr. Tarr and I got together for the purpose of discussing what could be done about the Report as we all felt that if it were not amended and if it appeared as written under the names of the authors, each of whom is a prominent public official, it could give rise to serious misunderstanding and considerable damage could be caused.

As a result of the meeting it was decided that Dr. Lanza, who was formerly with the U.S.P.H.S. and who is well known to many of the Public Health officials, should endeavor to arrange a meeting with the Surgeon General for the purpose of ascertaining what could be done in the circumstances. Dr. Lanza's letter briefly and too modestly reports the resultant interview with Dr. Sebeale and others. He also tells me, confidentially, that while the Federal officials have no jurisdiction over Mancuso it is quite likely that if the Report is printed in its present form it will neither have the endorsement of Dr. Hueper nor the National Cancer Institute which he represents.

I shall not attempt to describe the Report as I assume those in your company who have been working with Dr. Mancuso are familiar with its contents. It practically says that many common ailments of air passages of head, bronchus and chest are aggravated and caused by exposure to chromate dusts which presumably means that claims could be filed by workers suffering from sinus, rhinitis, etc., etc. but probably not hangnail or housemaid's knee. Of course the segment of the legal profession which specializes in handling such claims would have available an official document which would seem to give incontrovertible support to their client's claims. Obviously if the Report does not bear the endorsement of the National Cancer Institute, then the industry, when faced with possible claims supported by Mancuso's findings, can truthfully state such endorsement was withheld because the Federal Authorities did not agree with the Report and their position would be strengthened.

I am writing you because of conversations I have had with you and Ray Evans about this general subject and want you to have the background, which I hope gives more significance to Dr. Lanza's letter.

Dr. Lanza thinks that it is important to hold a meeting with members of the industry for the purpose of discussing various problems related to this general subject and I have encouraged him to call one in October. I know it will be interesting and help give you and possibly Ray Evans, if you can attend, an opportunity to meet Dr. Lanza, Mr. Waters and obtain at first hand their views concerning the problem in relation to the Federal Public Health Authorities and the general public.

Sincerely yours,

MUTUAL CHEMICAL CO. OF AMERICA

George A. Benington
President

GAB:lr

cc: Dr. A. J. Lanza
Mr. O. F. Tarr
Mr. W. W. Cooke
Mr. Wm. Rourke
Mr. A. E. Van Wirt

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