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THE INDUSTRIAL DUST PROBLEM

A Brief Narrative
in explanation of the
Temporary Organization Committee

Admittedly the problem of industrial dust diseases is engaging the serious attention of a large number of industries and companies, and, in various places, a great deal of research has been and is being done on it.

Many phases of the problem are common to all those affected.

There is now no one place where there is available all information on all phases of the problem; and no concerted planning is being done either as to the present or future as to all of the many different phases.

Through the courtesy of the Mellon Institute (and at the request of several interested industries) there was held in Pittsburgh on January 15th, 1935, a Symposium on the Industrial Dust problem.

At that meeting a Temporary Organization Committee was elected with instructions to develop a plan and report back as to how, in its opinion, a start could best be made toward the establishment of a Permanent organization of some kind for a study of the industrial dust problem.

It appeared to the Temporary Organization Committee that the first step toward the formation of a permanent organization would be to try to formulate some general idea as to what should be done, how it might be done, and what it would cost. It also seemed that it will be necessary to find out what has been done, in the many places where things have already been done on many phases of the problem, before it can be determined what should be done next. Therefore, it seemed that a program of activity for a Permanent organization should be -

I. An attempt to gather together in one place all of the existing facts concerning the subject of the Industrial Dust Problem.
II. A study of those facts, and an attempt to evaluate them.
III. A report based on such study and a recommendation as to the future activities.
IV. The Cost.

After discussing the problem with a number of people, the Temporary Organization Committee was of the opinion that Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, is probably best prepared to act as the "Central Clearing House" - Mellon Institute was therefore asked for a definite proposal along the foregoing lines. The proposal of Mellon Institute dated January 21st, 1935 was sent out with the letter from the Temporary Organiza-

tion Committee dated February 6th, 1935. Briefly, it was to the effect that for an overall sum of $25,000.00 Mellon Institute will (a) gather all the available facts and (b) study and evaluate them and (c) submit a definite report and recommendation.

Naturally Mellon Institute will expect the co-operation of everyone interested in the problem in the accomplishment of its objective and any unexpended monies can either be refunded or can be used in carrying out a future program.

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Invitations to the Symposium on the Industrial Dust Problem were sent to nearly one hundred Trade Associations and/or Code Authorities.

Nearly two hundred persons attended the Symposium at Pittsburgh on January 15th, 1935.

The report of the Temporary Organization Committee was sent on February 6th, 1935, to all those originally invited and to all those who attended, and copies of the report have since been sent to a considerable number of other Trade Associations and individual companies.

It was the thought of the Temporary Organization Committee that if the $25,000.00 were to be underwritten pro rata by fifty or more Trade Associations or individual companies, the amount of each subscription would not exceed $500.00 and it would be less as the number of subscribers should exceed fifty. Thus would be provided a nucleus of Trade Associations or individual companies who would be actively interested in the problem, and who could then form themselves into a permanent organization which would already have the assurance of a definite amount of available money.

The Temporary Organization Committee has planned as soon as the requisite number of fifty contributors has been assured, - to call a meeting of all contributors asking each of them to designate one individual who will have full power of representation in the formation of a permanent organization.

With the formation of a Permanent Organization, - the Temporary Organization Committee will have completed its duties.

The Permanent Organization - when formed by the contributors - will select its own officers or committees and will determine its own program and policies, and it is logical to assume that the direction of its activities will be placed in the hands of those who are best capable of directing it along the lines of Medical, Preventive, Legal, Legislative and Publicity problems.

No commitments of any kind have been made by the Temporary Organization Committee as to the future policies or program of a permanent organization if and when one is formed, except that it has been arranged so that contributions and membership can become known or can remain unknown as may be elected by the individual contributor.

----- o O o -----

In conclusion -

A large number of people have said that they believe that there should be a central clearing house, - or co-ordinating body - to represent all industry in connection with the industrial dust problem.

A Symposium has been held in Pittsburgh on January 15th, 1935.

A Temporary Organization Committee was elected to prepare a plan and recommendation as to a permanent organization.

This plan has been prepared and submitted (on February 6th, 1935).

Whether a permanent organization shall be formed, and how it shall be formed, and what shall be its program is now in the hands of those to whom this "narrative" is being sent.

Roger A. Hitchins
As Chairman -
Temporary Organization Committee.

OWENS-ILLINOIS GLASS COMPANY

MANUFACTURER OF Owens-Illinois GLASS CONTAINERS

GENERAL OFFICES

TOLEDO

March 21, 1935

Dr. L. R. Thompson,
U. S. Public Health Service,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Thompson:-

Enclosed are the initial and progress reports of the Temporary Organization Committee which was formed at the conclusion of the symposium on dust problems at Pittsburgh, January 15, 1935. You may have read these already, but when I heard from Mr. Hitchins(Mr. Hitchins is President of the American Refractories Institute) that your name was not on the mailing list, I asked that he send me these extra copies which I am now forwarding.

As a bystander, I have watched the progress made by Mr. Hitchins' Committee from its formation, with great interest. This has been possible because Mr. A. W. Sherwood, who is Vice-President of this Company, represents the glass sand, ground sand and glass container associations on the Temporary Organization Committee.. Through him I have seen some of the reactions of industry to the project. There has been some misunderstanding, unfortunately, as to the function of the Committee; although the "Narrative" of March 12 has undoubtedly clarified the matter,-- by re-stating that the Temporary Organization Committee has for its purpose the formation of interested trade associations and individual companies into a permanent organization which will have $25,000 to conduct a preliminary survey of the dust field -- under the guidance of an advisory board chosen from "dusty" experts, and following a detailed program to be worked out by this board.

The future of the project holds many rosy possibilities that the potential benefits to investigators and field workers,-in addition to industry itself, which is, of course, footing the bill -- are tremendous.

Mr. Sherwood is confident of the eventual success of the Committee in collecting fifty pledges. Time is required for them to come in, and there is much to be gained by setting up the permanent advisory board promptly. Consequently, when your dust-interested industrial friends seek your advice, I am wondering if you will give the movement a forward boost by urging that they dig deep for their $500.00. I mention this because apparently there are certain companies that would join in, if they had a personal talk with someone experienced in the dust field.

OWENS-ILLINOIS GLASS COMPANY

Incidentally, Mr. Hitchins has now included all the Homicide Club on his mailing list, so that this group -- whose services will assuredly be relied upon when the permanent organization is formed, — may follow the idea from its inception.

I would appreciate having your comments on this movement, particularly as to what reception it is getting in Washington and vicinity.

Sincerely,

W. G. Hazard.

WGHazard
MB

P. S. There are now 14 pledges, three more than Mr. Hitchins reported on March 12. Perhaps the snowball is beginning to roll.

W.J.H.

2

MELLON INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Enclosure
(4)
Page 1

January 21, 1935.

Mr. Roger A. Hitchins, President,
American Refractories Institute,
No. 1608 Walnut Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Hitchins:

In accordance with your request as Chairman of the Organization Committee which was formed at the conference on dust problems held in Pittsburgh on January 15, we are giving you our ideas regarding the important problems involved and the type of organization that should be established. I am enclosing a plan for the study of dust problems and the organization chart.

If this work were to be centralized in Mellon Institute, it could be carried out as a part of our air hygiene research. The director appointed to handle the investigation would also be the head of the institution or organization which the industries would set up. In this way, the work could be carried out in a most confidential manner as to who was supporting the research and no one would know what industries or individuals were contributing to the fund. This would enable the organization to get soundly established, so that if later on it was desired to come out in the open this could be arranged.

Hoping that this gives you the information which you wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

(signed) E. R. Weidlein

Director

ERW-W
enclosures

COPY

CAROL L. DAVIS
Court Reporter
Houston/Austin
Markowitz
Exhibit No. 32

(7)

Plan for Study of Dust Problems

I. Organization of the Industries.

It is necessary that there be some organization representing industries for the reason that no program of research investigation could be carried on without assurance of continuity and financial support. Such assurance could be given only by some body that had authority to speak for a sufficient number of industries or companies, and might be called The Industrial Dust Institute. If it seems inadvisable to effect such a separate organization, for reasons that may be sound, it is suggested that a group of individuals be chosen from industries or companies, such a group to be called, for example, Industries Advisory Board for the Study of Dust Problems. Affected industries and/or individual companies could contribute to this Board, which in turn could make contracts and disburse the monies.

The other primary functions of the Institute or Board would be to select the central agency to administer the activities later referred to in some detail (called, for convenience, the research agency), to keep in touch with that central agency, advise with it as to the program of work, and aid it in other obvious legitimate ways. Obviously, such central agency must be independent of any specific industry or group, it must have a broad outlook, a sympathetic understanding of the problem, and wide contacts with all cooperating agencies; and it must have the confidence of the industries, and of the physicians, engineers and all institutions, groups or individuals who might cooperate to advantage.

II. The work of the research agency.

Of primary importance in the initial stage is the collection of available data published and, as far as possible, unpublished.

These data must then be evaluated and correlated, and in this phase of the work it is assumed that it will be possible to secure the advice and cooperation of the recognized specialists in the fields of medicine, law, chemistry, physics and engineering. Evaluation should include the weeding out of data that cannot be considered as authoritative.

It will then be possible to prepare a comprehensive program designed to provide the industries concerned with legitimate protection.

In preparing to work out such a program, it would be necessary to compile a list of specialists in all fields who are engaged in a study of dust problems; to have determined any among them who may not be properly qualified and whose results might, therefore, not be entirely acceptable; to attempt as far as feasible to have investigational work correlated and synchronized; to be in position to make reasonable grants to qualified individuals or agencies to study special problems or phases of problems.

CAROL L. DAVIS
Court Reporter
Houston/Austin
Markowitz
Exhibit No. 4

Some of the aspects that occur to mind are:

(a) The pathological and psychological effects of dusts of various kinds, alone and in combination; for this a classification of dusts is necessary.

Important from both medical and legal standpoints is the preparation of court cases. On the medical side is also plant hygiene, insofar as it is affected by industrial dusts and fumes.

(b) A study of sampling devices and sampling methods, with the idea of further developing standards, and also to attempt to provide plant officials with simple portable apparatus which, while neither as delicate nor as accurate as the standard equipment, will enable them to keep a regular check on plant conditions and to know when the danger line is approached.

(c) Study of existing methods and cooperation in the development of improvements designed to minimize dust and fumes in the plant, as well as protective measures for workmen.

(d) Dissemination, through proper channels, of authoritative information.

(e) Maintaining contact as closely as possible with independent agencies and cooperating agencies engaged in studies of phases of the problem, and a program of such research experimentation as may be indicated.

(f) Study and synopsis of existing pertinent legislation (including compensation), and assistance in the preparation of safety codes and fair laws.

The place to start is in the collection and evaluation of available data, which must precede the formulation of the longer-time program.

III. Estimate of cost.

(a) The cost, if any, of operating the parent organization or Board.

(b) Cost of research agency. It is estimated that for the initial work of collecting and evaluating available data and preparing authoritative abstracts for dissemination, surveying the field and formulating a long-time program of constructive work, not less than $25,000 should be appropriated.

The time necessary for this initial phase cannot be predicted with certainty, but it is estimated that at least six months and not more than a year will be required.

After the conclusion of this period, it is certain that an effective program can be developed and would require a substantially larger budget.

IV. Organization chart.

The plan outlined above is shown broadly in the accompanying chart.

Enclosure
(5)
Page 1

CORRELATING AGENCY

SUGGESTED PROGRAM OF INITIAL ACTIVITIES

MEDICAL. (1) Secure from medical profession and health authorities as complete as possible information covering past and present research on Industrial Dust diseases.

(2) Study the assembled data and report and recommend (a) as to what phases have duplication of effort and (b) as to what phases should have further research; with the objective of enlisting the cooperation of American Medical Association in setting up authoritative and approved standards of diagnosis and correction.

PREVENTIVE. (1) Secure from all possible sources the existing available data on Industrial Dust hazards.

(2) Study the assembled data and report and recommend (a) as to present means of eliminating or minimizing those hazards and (b) as to what further should be done in that direction; with the objective of setting up authoritative and approved standards for the control of industrial dusts which, if complied with by industries, or by industrial companies, will act as a defense against personal injury suits.

LEGAL. (1) Secure from all affected industries their present experience as to personal injury suits and claims growing out of industrial dust hazards and claimed diseases; in complete detail as to name of claimant, amount involved, court of jurisdiction, prosecution and defense counsel, character of suit (or claim) together with a history of closed cases and the status of pending suits or claims.

(2) Study the assembled data and report and recommend (a) as to the aggregate amount of money loss which industry has experienced and with which industry is threatened as a whole and by divisions and (b) as to the instances where the situation appears to be a "racket" against industry and (c) what concerted action may be possible to be taken in pending cases and claims; with the objective of enlisting the co-operation of the American Bar Association and local Bar Associations in stopping the "racket."

LEGISLATIVE. (1) Secure from all States and Territories copies of existing or pending legislative enactments and existing court decisions affecting the dust hazard in industry, whether

LEGISLATIVE. (Contd)

workmen's compensation or ~~occupational disease or~~ common law.

(2) Study the assembled data and report and recommend (a) as to existing laws which properly protect both employer and employee and (b) as to such existing laws as do not properly protect both employer and employee; with the objective of securing the enactment of State laws, of a uniform character, which, when compiled with, will fairly and properly protect the interest of industry and of those engaged in industry and of enlisting the co-operation of the Federal Government in that direction.

PUBLICITY.

Consider and recommend (a) the manner in which affected industries may be informed and be kept informed as to all phases of the industrial dust problem and (b) the manner in which governmental agencies and the public may be informed and be kept informed, and the propriety and advisability of doing so, as to the ~~measures which are being~~ and should be taken in the direction of protecting both human life and property.