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ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY COMMITTEE

Outline of remarks (unedited) by C.L. Sheckler, Chm.
at ATI General Meeting, October 10, 1969

1. Discussed a Position Paper (Special Report) to the Surgeon General from the Bureau of Occupational Safety and Health. Has reviewed a draft of the Paper but does not know when it will be published - perhaps within the next six months.

2. Discussed potential revision of Threshold Limit Value for Asbestos Dust. Current ACGIH TLV is 5.0 MPPCF. Walsh-Healy Act revision is 12 fibers per cc, or 2.0 MPPCF. Proposed TLV at this time is 6 fibers per cc, or 1.0 MPPCF, meaning fibers over 5 microns in length. A fibre is defined as being three times in length of its diameter.

3. Referred to meetings with Captain Rosenwinkle, Commanding Officer of Shipyard Repair and Environmental Health, concerning the Navy's search for substitutes for asbestos-containing materials, and use of new asbestos products that generate less dust. Concludes that the industry needs to develop and present new products that are less dusty and also needs to project educational material, or information, concerning use of asbestos products.

4. "Nader's Raiders" have been considerably involved in the Coal Industry "Black Lung" occupational disease problems, legislation and litigation. This group and movement has now moved into the area of the Cotton Textile Industry in respect to "Brown Lung" (Byssinosis) an occupational disease caused by inhalation of cotton dust. There is reason to believe that the investigation into cotton textiles may lead Nader, or someone else, to the Asbestos Textile Industry. It is therefore essential that ATI be alert and prepared. One of the greatest assets that we have in our favor is the cooperative health program that the ATI has undertaken with the U.S.P.H. Service. This program is in its third stage, the clinical examination stage, and has and will contribute a great deal of knowledge relative to the health problems relating to asbestos. Stressed that members who have been cooperating in the USPHS health program have no reason to be apprehensive, as we have been forthright in recognizing our difficulties, and we have been doing something about it. We must continue our efforts, and are currently making plans to do considerable work in the area of health information and education to the users of our products.

5. Reviewed current status of medical research work in conjunction with asbestos and mineral fibers. Mentioned participation by other manufacturing groups, i.e.: IAMA, NIMA, ACPA, and recently the MPA.

6. Pointed out that the Air Hygiene & Mfg. Committee of ATI was concerned primarily with "In-Plant" conditions and problems, whereas the Environmental Study Committee's primary objective was to act in an advisory capacity on matters affecting our industry, outside the plant, such as legislation, litigation, medical research findings, customer education efforts, liaison with other industry groups, etc. Stressed the need for constant coordination between the two committees.

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