

Mr. Drislane displayed some posters that had been sent by Mr. Mereness of the Asbestos Information Association. These posters had been received at Innisbrook. These posters had hints such as "If you don't smoke now, don't start. If you do smoke quit." and "Vacuum dust spills--never dry sweep." There were others to help deliver the warning to workers concerning the asbestos dust problem. A point that has been raised several times is that the workers should be advised of the seriousness of the problem. These posters are an assist in getting this message across. It was suggested that participation in the Asbestos Information Association as members would help friction materials manufacturers with the asbestos problem.

The Secretary was advised to send a copy of Mr. Mereness letter of June 12, 1975 to the membership, indicating the AIA's invitation to have them join their association.

At this point it was stated that the Asbestos Study Committee had passed a resolution as follows: "That the Committee requests guidance from the Board of Directors concerning the problem of the two fiber/cc limit and the lack of reliability of the membrane filter method for measurement of fiber counts." The Asbestos Study Committee members were concerned that while the membrane filter technique is the only method now available for measuring asbestos concentrations it is a most unreliable tool for enforcement of the two fibers/cc limit. In searching for guidance for the Committee one Director stated that our objection to use of this method for enforcement would not be constructive. It would just stir matters up without providing an alternative. Some regulatory authorities are receptive where suggestions are made for improvement. Simply indicating our dissatisfaction with the membrane filter method for enforcement might be considered as a negative attitude.

A Director stated that the hygienists will use common sense and realize the fallibility of the membrane filter technique. It is fairly well known in industry and government that this technique is fallible. While the directors expressed concern over the use of this as an enforcement tool, they do not feel that any Institute position should be expressed to OSHA concerning its use. It was felt that those enforcing the OSHA relations are aware of the disparity in results using this technique.

At this point Mr. Join of the FIMFI indicated that work had been done in Europe concerning sampling and counting. He said that his asbestos association Chambre Syndicale de l'Amiante (France), had an expert working for the association in the sampling and counting area. Members exchange slides and see how the counts come out. He is waiting for a report on this study. It was suggested that there is no other means of measuring the asbestos concentration and it is most likely OSHA will stay with this method regardless of any input from the Institute or others.

Dr. Hoalli presented a movie which had been shown in Great Britain by Granada TV entitled "Killer Dust--A Standard Mistake?" This movie had interviews with Dr. Holmes and Lewinsohn of TBA, and Dr. Selikoff of Mount Sinai. They discussed data on workers from several years ago that resulted in the 2 fibers/cc limit. A more recent review of data by Dr. Lewinsohn indicated to Dr. Selikoff that the 2 fibers/cc limit might not be satisfactory. The controversy between Dr. Selikoff and Dr. Lewinsohn was shown in this film. The argument centered on interpretation of the statistics. It was recommended that the movie be shown to the membership.