PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

SA-423

February 23, 1935

Mr. S. E. Whiting
Liberty Mutual Insurance Company
Park Square Building
Boston, Mass.

51453

Dear Mr. Whiting:

I am glad to know that you are still on Dr. Leary's trail for those asbestosis lungs. I will be glad to get them when they arrive, but in the meantime I shall be content to wait.

Your question about the active components in the asbestos dust is significant. As far as the animals are concerned, I can only say that we realize that non-fibrous particulate matter was present in the lungs to a limited degree. However, asbestosis bodies usually formed where the fibrosis was most abundant. The particles which may have been talc or serpentine were transported to the lymph nodes in considerable numbers but did not provoke much reaction in this location. We therefore felt that the fibrous material was largely responsible for the tissue changes. On the other hand, I cannot believe that all talcs are inert. We have, in point, the case from Gouverneur which showed a tremendous amount of dust in the lung and considerable fibrous reaction. However, this particular case was complicated by so much tuberculosis that one could not state with any assurance how much change was due to the inhaled dust and how much to the infection. I was inclined to believe that the latter was more significant.

The studies by the Public Health Service, reported by Dreessen in Industrial Hygiene, indicated a very appreciable amount of change demonstrable by x-ray. A recent report by DallaValle, in the U.S.P.H. reports, dealing with the Georgia hazard showed even more suggestive changes in x-ray films. I have some of the Georgia talc which is now being prepared for animal injection and we will await results with unusual interest. This latter material, by the way, is

a true talc and exists in quite pure form. We are using this as part of the silicate study undertaken with the appropriation from the stock companies. We will keep you informed if any results materialize.

Sincerely yours,

Leroy U. Gardner, M.D.
Director

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