CF 100903352

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
tabbies
JM-2070

UK

December 10, 1971

F. J. Solon

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ASBESTOS INFORMATION BODIES
NOVEMBER 24-25, 1971
LONDON

I. INTRODUCTION

Three documents accompanied this report, and are vital to its content:

A. A copy of the program of the Conference, which identifies individual speakers.

B. A list of delegates present at the Conference and the specific name of the Information Body to which each belongs.

C. The summaries of papers presented at the Conference, as they were available at the end of the Conference.

This report, therefore, will not repeat information that is in attachment C and will identify individuals only by their last name and the country from which they come.

Thirty-five delegates represented eleven Asbestos Information Bodies at this Conference. A complete summary of the Conference will be mailed to each delegate by the AIC-UK in the future.

II. Medical Aspects - Doctor W. J. Smither

Cape Asbestos

Dr. Smither gave an excellent one-hour presentation on the Asbestos health subject. He used slides and presented the information in such a way that it was both understandable and not at all boring to laymen. Dr. Smither is a good speaker and, in my opinion, would make an excellent witness at Public Hearings, etc. His ability to sum up this complex subject in a reasonably short time is unusual.

Among the highlights of his presentation were the fact that he agrees that Dr. Newhouse's study of the factory near London confirms the Selikoff Study of the Patterson, New Jersey Plant in that there can be a high death rate from very high levels of exposure over a short period of time (two years or less) among occupationally exposed individuals.

Dr. Smither believes that Mesothelioma has a long latent period which he places at in excess of twenty years. He feels, however, that the actual exposure to dust may be for a relatively short time and possibly small doses (still far greater than the exposures to which the general public might be subjected). He holds to the theory that Crocidolite is much more likely to produce Mesothelioma than other types of asbestos. He believes that most MEsothelioma cases are contracted while the victim is in his youth, because the lungs are more susceptible then to being penetrated deeply by the thin, straight fibers of Crocidolite and this enables the fibers to get into the pleura. He also believes that there is some other cause, in addition to asbestos for Mesothelioma.

Dr. Smither quoted from Dr. Gilson (Cardiff, Wales) to the effect that the likelihood of death from occupational exposure to asbestos, even in the past, has been far less

less likely than among coal miners and among the general public who smoke twenty or more cigarettes a day.

Dr. Smither believes and is willing to state flatly that the amount of asbestos in the ambient air has no effect whatsoever on health. He has the same feelings regarding asbestos in water, beer, etc.

III. Current and Prospective Regulations

A. United Kingdon - Alec Cross

Reviewed the factory regulations which have been in effect since May 1970. Among other things they provides that employees must not frustrate measures to protect them. Employees must wear work clothes that are provided by the company and these must be left at the work place. The regulations on Crocidolite are ten times as severe as on other types.

The Royal Navy has not banned asbestos (as we had heard) but has listed a number of non-dusty products in which asbestos may be used.

Steve Holmes

Reviewed the details of the British Factory Regulations, with which we are familiar.

Significantly, the member companies of the AIC-UK give free dust counts and engineering advice to their customers as a part of the cost of doing business. They do not charge for these services!

B. Holland - A. R. Kolff van Oosterwijk

A semi-government research committee has been set up to study the epidemiological relationship between asbestos and Mesothelioma. This is the result of Dr. Stumphius' work and publicity. The study will include asbestos dust in the ambient air, emissions from auto brake linings and the development of reliable measurement devices for asbestos in the ambient air.

Some unions are seeking to ban all asbestos insulation in Holland and are trying to include this ban in their union contracts. Asbestos cement products are not under fire, as yet.

C. Belgium - Dr. J. Lepoutre

There are no regulations specifically covering asbestos but there are general factory regulations in Belgium which may apply. The Common Market is studying the possibility of regulations that would affect all of its members. They may well adopt the UK Regulations, in view of the impending entry of Britain into the Common Market.

D. Germany - G. C. Schmidt

There are no regulations on asbestos, per se, but the factory inspectorate has jurisdiction and will have regulations on asbestos by 1972. There are heavy insurance penalties on asbestos factories (equivalent to our Workmen's Compensation).

The Germans use a different measurement technique for occupational exposure to asbestos than we do. It is the old particle technique that was abandoned by the U. S. in favor of fibers. There is quite a problem of lack of standardization of measurement techniques [illegible] countries in Europe.

There are two German Asbestos Information bodies, one representing the Asbestos Cement Industry and one representing the rest of the industry. Until recently they have not gotten along too well. The Conference seemed to draw them together; For instance, Mr. Schmidt spoke for both groups. The Asbestos Cement people seem to be more inclined towards the "let sleeping dogs lie" philosophy while the others know that they are already under fire.

E. France - RobertJoin

The French use yet a third system of air sampling (neither like UK or US). Mr. Join has been quite active in collecting clippings and information about this subject but his information association, thus far, has tended to remain on the defensive.

At one point, in answer to a question, Mr. Join said that some measurements of total dust (not just asbestos) in French Asbestos-Processing Plants ran as high as 300,000 particles per liter!

F. Scandinavia - A. Palomaki (Finland)

Mr. Palomaki reported for the four small, separate Asbestos Information Groups representing Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. Primarily they are Asbestos Cement people although Insulation people are included also. He gave an interesting slide talk and is quite conversant with the situation in the United States. Interestingly, Finland, alone of the European countries, has chosen to adopt U. S. standards rather than copy the British.

The Finnish Government has not been agressive of late, but unions have been pushing for controls.

G. Italy - A. Calamandrei

Mr. Calamandrei represents an individual company, rather than an Asbestos Information Body, although they are in the process of forming the latter. Asbestos is considered officially as a hazardous occupational substance. However, the Government pays very little attention to it and industry is in no hurry to call it to their attention.

Union pressure are handled very simply. The union contracts provide that every worker in an asbestos plant (not just those who handle asbestos) gets premium "hazard" pay of about $22.50 per month. Employers also have to pay for special health insurance for asbestos workers. This averages about 4% of their wages.

Mr. Calamandrei indicated that dust counts in Italy are at least as high as those reported in France. He stated that between 15 and 20% of the employees in his plant had contracted some degree of asbestosis!

Incidentally, Mr. Calamandrei is the one who made the cloth that was imported into the United States for the "infamous" coats. He greatly regrets having lost this business!

H. - United States - W. P. Raines

I followed the outline in attachment C, so I will not add to that. During the question and answer period, however, great interest was shown in the pending ban on brake linings in Illinois; on the Water Pollution Act and the effect it might have on pipe; and, most intensely, upon the proposed reduction of our occupational PLV from 12 fibers to 5 fibers. The British, in particular, were absolutely horrified at this development and at the fact that we were not going to put up a desperate, all out fight against it. This will be commented upon at the end of this report. Part of the problem is a difference in interpretation and measurement of numerical standards between our two countries.

(-- Tea Break --)

IV. Attacks and Defenses

A. United States - W. P. Raines

Again, I stuck to the outline. At the very conclusion of my talk, a Telex from Matt Swetonic was delivered, informing me of our victory in Illinois. I read it to the audience and it was a great ending to the speech! There was considerable

relief that this first attempt to impose a ban on asbestos-containing brake linings had been defeated.

During the question and answer period, there was expressed by the British, in particular, the fact that we need in the United States a medical spokesman to counter Dr. Selikoff at Press Conferences, Medical Meetings, etc. I restrained my reply to the understatement that we at Johns-Manville and, subsequently the AIA, have recognized this need for at least six years but have thus far been unable to find the qualified individual who is willing to do the job.

The question arose as to what the AIA and AIC-UK are spending on their information programs. The British gave their figures so I also gave our 1971 figures, in round numbers, specifying which part of it was advertising and pointing out that it represented only part of the cost since J-M personnel contributed the overwhelming bulk of the time and their salaries were not included.

B. - Scandinavia - W. Johnsen - Denmark

The International Labor Organization (ILO) is preparing for a conference nextyear at which they will demand strict controls on asbestos throughout the world! This very much needs follow-up! I have asked Hill and Knowlton, before they leave our payroll, to gather what information they can.

The Finnish Government is investigating Union charges that there are hazardous conditions in a mine in that country. There maybe a "messy" television debate on this subject.

(That concluded the first day of the conference.)

---------- *** ----------

At the beginning of the second day of the conference, we showed the Channel 13 film, with appropriate introduction as to its background, as a way of getting across to the European delegates the climate, particularly the press climate, in which we operate on this subject. The film was to have been the introduction of my talk, but the projector did not work. The soundtrack unfortunately was very poor and difficult to hear.

C. France - RobertJoin

There has been considerable publicity in the French press regarding hazard to the general public, most of this has been picked up from overseas reports, particularly from the United States. The French press tends to be quite volitile, also, although they have not yet reached the point of the U.S. media.

D. Germany G. C. Schmidt

There have been very few attacks in the press thusfar and, it was clear from Mr. Schmidt's remarks, the Germans are rather complacent on this subject, as compared to the U.S. and Britian. They are very reluctant to spend money on information activities until they are attacked. The rest of the delegates urged them, however, to at

least start to build up the material they will need when they are attacked.

E. Holland J. Van Haagan

The Dutch are afraid to contact the press for fear of stirring up more trouble. They have already had a good deal of unfavorable publicity as a result of Dr. Stumphius and the attempts by Asbestos Corporation to locate a mill in Holland.

Dutch authorities are investigating the question of a health hazard from drinking water passed through Asbestos Cement Pipes!

F. Italy - A. Calamandrei

There has been no publicity, except for a few articles in Communist publications. The government does not appear to be interested in this problem.

G. United Kingdom - Wilfred Howard

Wilfred Howard gave an excellent slide presentation and showed some T.V. clips.

The British are in the fourth year of their advertising campaign. They are also preparing a new movie called "Fire At Work", to show how Asbestos saves lives. It will be sponsored jointly by the AIC, a British Fire Extinguisher Company and a Ventilation Equipment Company. They will be happy to sell copies of this to the AIA if we should want one.

The Financial Times will do a four page editorial section on Asbestos (not a paid ad this time).

Their policy on television is to agree to live interviews but to go on tape only if they have advance assurance that it will not be edited.

They have some good material on environmental control at some of their plants, and recently interested a TV program in running pictures of a clean operation.

They do divide up the public relations work among their members, in that one company does the displays; another does movies, and another does the literature and the ads. In each case, however, they are public relations people who devote a great deal of time to the subject. Of course, Turner Bros. and Wilfred Howard devote by far the largest amount of PR time and effort, in addition to Hill and Knowlton.

V. Private Discussion with Turner Bros. Chairman

Following the conference, I was invited by the British delegates to meet with their chairman, Mr. Bateman, to give him some of the highlights of the information from my presentation. Messrs. Hardie, Hills and Howe were present at the meeting, which lasted for about an hour.

Mr. Bateman obviously has a very constructive and conscientious viewpoint towards the Asbestos problems and is willing to give up areas of business in order to save the entire structure. For example, he is considering the possibility of dropping the Asbestos Fiber Spray Business. Both Turner and Cape are actually in this business as contractors, as opposed to our position in the United States as a raw material supplier.)

Mr. Bateman has the long range view that future growth in sale of Asbestos Fiber and of Asbestos products, particularly things such as Asbestos Cement Building Materials and Pipe, may have to be concentrated in the lesser developed countries. He is speaking, of course, over a rather long range view. His point is that in many of these countries the life expectancy is so low, as a result of deaths from diseases from impure drinking water, for example, as well as starvation, and inadequate housing, that the question of the very, very, small risk of mesothelioma that may exist in exposure to Asbestos in some situations, is totally out-weighed by the contribution that Asbestos Pipe and other products can make to improving the living standards and, indeed, the life expectancy of people in these countries. This is an interesting philosophy, although it has to be expressed rather carefully.

Most of all, the British were, as mentioned above, greatly disturbed over the prospective lowering of the USTLB to five fibers. I was more candid with them at this private interview than from the podium. I pointed out that they should not be surprised at this development since the ACGIH had made this recommendation three years ago and a blue ribbon panel of doctors assembled by Marcus Key had come up with the same recommendation two years ago. (They were told of these facts.) I pointed out that we would have absolutely no medical support if we attempted to fight the lowering to five fibers. Our real concern, I told them, was that it would be lowered to two fibers! Thus, the five fiber question is a rather pragmatic one and we could lose far more than we would gain by attempting to oppose it.

The British did not entirely agree with this, so I gently reminded them of the situation which we had fallen into by opposing bans on Asbestos Fireproof Spray in this country (largely at their instigation!). Bateman seemed less concerned than the others, although they are really worried that they could not meet this type of a level in textile operations. There is, of course, a difference in the way of our TLV is interpreted and enforced from the way the British enforce their two fiber TLV which, as we know, is a "floor" rather than a "ceiling".

W. P. Raines