

SPECIAL MEETING - DEBATE UNIT - DEBATE, PUEBLO, RI

LIST OF ATTENDANTS

ROOM NUMBER

ACADEMIC ASSOCIATION

Bill and June Oughtred
Ian and Bala Campbell
Harry and Grace Foster
Mel and Jane Carson

BELL ASBESTOS MINES

Parker Smith
Robbie and Bateena Dodds-Mebrom
Bill and Mary Emmeline Smith

CANADIAN JOHNS-MANVILLE

Clint and Peggy Burnett
Dud and Peg Colton
Dimitry and Irina Poutiatine
Karl and Estelle Lindell
Joe and Irene Eby
Noel and Olive Hendry
Bob Hutcheson
Yvan and Dolores Couture

CAREY-CANADIAN MINES

Bob and Audrey Merrill
Ab and Charlotte Bagenstose

FLINTKOTE MINES

Monte and Cecilia Carpenter
Arthur and Regine Hooker

LAKE ASBESTOS

Ralph and Mary Lou Hennebach
Michael and Isabelle Messel
Lionel and Françoise Piuze
Rollie and Liette Gagnon

NATIONAL ASBESTOS

J.E. and Elizabeth Desmarais
Bob and Margaret Coleman

I.B.E.H.

(Dr.) George and Ellie Wright

Q.A.M.A.

Ivan and Carmen Sabourin
George Robinson
Paul and Madeleine Filteau

March 19-22, 1970.

James H. Hutton

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

OF THE

QUEBEC ASBESTOS MINING ASSOCIATION

HELD ON MARCH 20 AND 21, 1970, AT THE CORADO HILTON HOTEL,

CORADO, PUERTO RICO

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1970

Present:

Messrs. R.J. Merrill	M.P. Carson	
E.C. Carpenter	D.T. Colton	A.R. Hooker
R.S. Coleman	Y. Couture	J.R.E. Hutcheson
K.V. Lindell	J.E. Desharais	L.C. Pluze
M.J. Messel	R. Dods-Hebron	D. Poutiatine
W.W. Doughtred	J.D. Eby	W.J.W. Smith
<u>F.P. Smith</u>	W.H. Foster	G.W. Wright (Dr.)
A.H. Bagenstose	R.P. Gagnon	George Robinson
C.B. Burnett	N.W. Hendry	Ivan Sabourin
I.C. Campbell	R.L. Hennebach	Paul-A. Filteau

Mr. R.J. Merrill, President, was in the chair. Minutes of the meeting of February 12, 1970 were approved as submitted to Directors.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Chairman reviewed the work of the sub-committees as follows:

Filtration of Asbestos-Cement-Silica Mixes - An apparatus manufactured by Bailey Meter Company called an automatic fibre controller was found to be not suitable for laboratory use as presently designed.

The effort to contact P. I. I. Brown, who had published several articles in the Asbestos Cement Magazine was unsuccessful. An effort will be made to correspond with the author for further leads on suitable filtration measuring apparatus.

Translation of the Summary of Tests - This translation has gone through ten redrafts and for the approval of the Directors was moved and seconded.

CARRIED.

F.S.U. Procedure - The redraft of this procedure to make it suitable for the A.S.T.M. has been completed. Drawings are being revised and a test series is being conducted to determine whether options should be provided for the use of larger perforations in the grid on the B.O.P. Disintegrator for long group 5 fibres.

Work of other sub-committees was reported as progressing in a satisfactory manner.

UNIFORM CLASSIFICATION AND GRADING COMMITTEE

Random Q.S. Tests of Production - The 1969 composite report, giving the summary of all Q.S. tests of 1969 production sampling by the Fibre Inspector, was issued to all Q.A.M.A. companies on February 5th.

Fibre Length and Diameter Project - The measuring of the length and diameter of the 4, 5 and 6-group fibres of the 1968 Exchange Samples has been completed and measurements put into the computer. The results will be analyzed in April, as well as the correlation (or lack of the same) between length-diameter and other common tests such as Q.S., Rotap, McNett, and Surface Area.

The study of the effect of dispersion time on length-diameter is in progress.

The Sherbrooke Lab. Director will attend a 4-day Research Information Exchange at Laurentian University, from June 22 to June 26.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Mining Fund - An "ad hoc" committee has been set up under the Advisory Committee to the Department of Labour and to-date three meetings have been held where the provisions included in the federal and provincial legislations for the reclassification and re-employment of employees were studied. It is the intention of the employer representatives to reaffirm that severance pay and other indemnities are matters to be negotiated at individual level, in the same way, as supplementary unemployment benefits (S.U.B.).

Workmen's Compensation Act - A first document on the Workmen's Compensation Act to be presented to the Prime Minister, Honorable J.J. Bertrand, had just been completed and a letter forwarded to the Premier asking for an interview, when the appointment of the former Minister of Labour, Mr. M. Bellemare, as President of the Workmen's Compensation Board was revealed with the announcement of Provincial elections on April 29 next. Another approach to bring about improvements to the act will have to be studied.

Bill 49 - Art. 45 - An Order in Council was published in the March 7, 1970 issue of the Quebec Official Gazette promulgating the general regulation concerning advance notice of collective dismissals as per art. 45 of Bill 49. The regulation does not apply, however, to any employer who dismisses employees for an indefinite period of time of less than six (6) months' duration.

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According to a recent decision by the Department of Labour in the case of the layoff of some 150 employees at the CIL Brownburg plant, it was ruled that just regulation does not apply also to temporary layoffs caused by normal business fluctuations.

Worker's Compensation Experience - The report recently issued shows that the total cost in 1969 is lower than in 1968, industrial diseases amounting to some \$145,000. less. Frequency and severity of lost time injuries are not quite as good in 1969 as in 1968.

In reply to a question it was pointed out that industrial disease compensation claims for dust exposure are charged to last employer and, as advised by Mr. J. Delage of W.C.B., there is no time limit. Should the Company cease to exist, then such claims, if accepted, would be charged to the general accident fund.

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Committee reported on the following items:

1. Rail Rates - U.S.A. - Canada - American railroads increased all rates by six percent as November 18, 1969.
2. Truck Rates - U.S.A. - Canada - Motor carriers also increased their rates by six percent effective February 2, 1970.
3. Ocean Rates - The increasing cost of loading in the St. Lawrence ports is forcing the lines to container operation. Containers have made progress in 1969 and it is expected that 1970 will bring additional container services to the United Kingdom and Continental Europe. Similar services are contemplated to Australia, Spanish Atlantic and the Mediterranean with Japan being a possibility for 1970.

In searching for a proper service to Continental Europe, serving the Bordeaux - Hamburg Range - it was found that the only steamship company offering this service was the Arctic Line (Russian flag). Since producers were not prepared to ship their entire tonnage in containers, a break-bulk service was necessary. It is interesting to note that four large European users are now accepting their entire tonnage in containers.

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4. United Kingdom - 1969 rates have been extended till June 30, 1970 pending a completion of the Dublin Report. This report will make recommendations on labour and port facilities in England.
5. Inter-American Conference - It was agreed to extend the 1965 rates to December 31, 1970.
6. Eastern Canada/Australia - New Zealand - Disparity of rates between Western Canada and Eastern Canada was discussed with the Conference and a reply is expected this week. The lines are insisting on unitized shipments and offering as much as 10% reduction for palletized cargo.
7. Baltic - Negotiations with this Conference have been finalized. Agreed rates for Group 3, 4, 5 fibre, \$27.00/ton, and for Group 6 and 7, \$25.00/ton.

LEGISLATION AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

In recent months, reported the Chairman, a number of sessions of the Joint QMMA and QAMA Tax Committee were devoted to the White Paper proposals as well as discussion meetings with Honorable P.E. Allard, and his senior officers, prior to his meeting with the other Provincial Mines Ministers on the White Paper proposals in an attempt to arrive at a consolidated front.

The recommendations of the Joint Tax Committee together with supplementary explanations were submitted on February the 5th, in a brief to the Provincial Ministers of Natural Resources and Finance for their use in their discussions with the Federal Minister of Finance.

Lately, there has been growing and widespread objections to the White Paper proposals, and it is doubtful that a general reform of Federal Taxation policies can be enacted into legislation by the end of 1970, as originally planned by the Minister of Finance.

1970-71 Federal Budget - In his recent budget speech, the Minister of Finance laid out a plan and timetable for the government's fight against consumer credit controls. The entire document is devoted to the proposition that the Canadian economy must be purged of excessive inflationary pressures this year. The Minister indicated that he may bring in another budget in the fall.

The government wants to see how the economy develops this year and is waiting to see the effects of the Prices and Incomes Commission's campaign for voluntary restraints.

Parliament proposes to extend for three years the law by which industries are encouraged to invest in anti-pollution structures or equipment by means of accelerated capital allowances under the income tax act.

A special allowance, similar to that granted for water pollution control equipment, is to apply to structures and equipment acquired after March 12, 1970 primarily for the purpose of preventing or reducing air pollution.

The Provincial Government plans to establish a medicare plan for Quebec by July 1, 1970. Contributions to finance the plan would be 0.8% of income with a maximum of \$125.00 per tax payer and 0.8% of total payroll for companies and business. However, it is doubtful that such a plan can be put into operation by July 1, 1970.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Chairman reviewed the report submitted by the Director of Information Services and insisted particularly on the generally favorable press reports following the recent stories emanating from or about the industry. Except in one case - The Gazette - whose attitude was

blamed on an attempt to increase readership through controversial reporting, the articles in general recognized the contribution of the industry towards the improvement of the economic well-being and environmental conditions of people in plant communities.

As regards the proposed asbestos wall-chart, the chairman explained that it would be more practical to use photos and copy of Canadian relevance. It was agreed by the Directors that firm quotations be requested for a quantity of 2,000 posters.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

The specific areas of activity since the Special Meeting of October 8th have been as follows:

Sub-Committee on Design - There have been three meetings of this Committee and a very positive and fruitful interchange of technical know-how on environmental control measures has taken place. These meetings are being held at the member-companies on a rotational basis followed by a visit to some specific area of interest to the Committee.

Dryer Stack Dust Control - Through the co-operation of the member-companies, the approval of funds and the technical knowledge of the Dust Control Engineer, a common measuring technique will soon be in practice across the industry.

Tailings Pile Stabilization - The first set of experiments has just been completed. The key point to note is that in two months we have taken the plants through an entire year's cycle of growth. There were some 324 test plantings of 21 types of grasses.

Preliminary conclusions:

One type of rye grass is the best candidate.
Germination and growth on tailings alone was extremely slow and virtually impractical.

The addition of as little as 1" of good soil on top of tailings made an astonishing difference.

The next experiments will deal only with the more successful candidates.

Legislation - The Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Honorable J.P. Cloutier, had given notice to the Government, through formal listing on the agenda of the National Assembly, that an Air Pollution Act would be brought down in the course of the recently terminated session. With the announcement of Provincial elections, all projects on the agenda were automatically suspended.

NEW BUSINESS

CIM President-elect - G.W. Smith, who had to resign as president-elect 1970 of the Institute, indicated to the President of our Association that the next president-elect of the Institute was a University Professor and that his travelling expenses (\$3,000.) could not be paid by his employer. As a result, requests for financial support are being made to various mining companies and associations. A motion to the effect that the Association contribute \$250.00 was seconded.

CARRIED.

In principle, it should be understood that the President of the Institute should be a mining man active in the Industry.

COMMENTS ON GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

The asbestos fibre business has been fairly good during the first quarter of 1970. The outlook for the year indicates an increase in sales of 1 to 2 %.

Predictions as regards sales of asbestos products and building materials are not optimistic; lower volumes are expected as a result of decline in housing starts for the total year of 1970. Forecast drop

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in non-residential building - 6% and in residential construction - 4%, as compared with 1969.

Air pollution is a very popular expression these days both in U.S.A. and Canada. Government people are indicting charges (suits) against certain companies for air contamination within or in the environment of plants.

The outlook as to the labour demand patterns in the U.S.A. during the present year points to an increase in wages of some 10%. In order to compensate for the resultant higher costs, management must resort to improved productivity and efficiency at all levels.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned till Saturday, March 21, 1970.

Paul-A. Filteau,
General Manager
&
Secretary.

.../Saturday, March 21, 1970.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

OF THE

QUEBEC ASBESTOS FIBRE ASSOCIATION

HELD ON MARCH 20 AND 21, 1970, AT THE DORADO HILTON HOTEL,

DORADO, PUERTO RICO

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1970

Dr. Geo. W. Wright joined for this meeting the participants in the meeting of the previous day.

The President called on Karl V. Lindell to report on the recent activities of the Occupational and Environmental Health Committee.

As President of the I.O.E.H., Mr. Lindell attended last November a meeting held in London, England, sponsored by Turner and Newall Company. There were people inside the iron curtain in attendance.

Dr. W.J. Smither reviewed the medical background of the problem of asbestos and health. Nothing new was reported. The P.R. aspect in U.K. is handled by the Asbestos Information Committee.

Mr. Lindell also paid a visit to Dr. J.C. Wagner in Cardiff, Wales, U.K., two months ago to learn the latest information in the field of tissue response. A number of Canadian doctors will be present at the April symposium on tissue response, among whom will be Dr. Roland Guy and Dr. Fernand Grégoire.

It should be mentioned that in a recent paper Dr. Timbrell stated that the falling speed of fiber in the human lungs depends more on its diameter than its length.

At this point, Mr. Lindall called on Dr. Wright.

Dr. C. E. Wright

The President of the Scientific Committee presented a review of the Asbestos and Health developments in recent years.

In 1966, the O.A.M.A. established the I.O.E.H. in response to the re-opening of an old problem, "pulmonary fibrosis", which was considered to be closed. This was a remarkable initiative which helped in avoiding a problem of greater magnitude. One remembers that in the late 1940's the question of bronchogenic cancer had been raised. A study conducted by Dr. Braun and Truan pointed out that the incidence of cancer in the Quebec Asbestos Mine workers was not higher than in surrounding populations. These results, however, were not accepted generally.

In 1959, the mesothelioma question was brought to the fore in South Africa. This new type of malignancy was later emphasized at the New York Academy of Science Conference held in 1964. Shortly afterwards, following the first Antigua Conference held in 1965, the I.O.E.H. was organized in the Fall of '66. Dr. Wright indicated that he felt honored to be the Chairman of the Scientific Committee of I.O.E.H. and was pleased as such to serve the O.A.M.A. Two important functions of said Scientific Committee consist in evaluating proposed studies and keeping the O.A.M.A. informed as to what was going on in the field of health in connection with asbestos. The Scientific Committee has accepted the role of thinking through what should be done in the future. "This brings me, said Dr. Wright, to ask from you today where does the O.A.M.A. and Scientific Committee wish to go from now on. Can we have any guidance from you in that connection?"

How are the workers and the public protected? The governmental workmen's compensation services were meant to take care of certain injuries and diseases; however, the matter was not so simple in the case of asbestosis. More and more information is still needed to justly administer a satisfactory workmen's compensation program.

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The second question has to do with the management of people. What do you do, for instance, with an individual who shows an early reaction to asbestos in the lung? Or with a man that has enough years of exposure, so that you can anticipate re-activation? Is there anything to be gained by removing him from exposure? This cannot be answered as yet.

The lung cancer problem, however, can be approached in a rather hopeful way. A question: Is there a precursor? Not all would agree that lung cancers are harvested in people having some metaplasia (abnormal looking and behaving cells) in fact the incidence seems to be far higher. In a high risk industry - v.g. uranium or asbestos insulation workers - it is reasonable to believe that removing a man with metaplasia will reduce the incidence of lung cancer.

A mechanism (device) has appeared which electronically will scan the sputum samples (slides) of man and will tell if there are abnormal cells. Large scale studies are therefore possible. It is reasonable to believe that if you can pick men with metaplasia you can alter their life. Such may be a conceivable answer.

The Scientific Committee has also set forth avenues of major studies. One of the major things to be done is to establish threshold limit values (T.L.V.) or maximum allowable concentration (M.A.C.) of dust in the air without risk to a man for his projected life time. It is worth noting that results of Dr. McDonald's study show far less evidence of a cancer problem in the asbestos mine workers. On the other hand, the studies of Dr. Selikoff show that 50% of insulation workers are dying at a younger age than the general population. In view of this, should we have more than one T.L.V.? Here are some recent developments in this regard.

In Britain, a T.L.V. of two (2) f.p.c.c. will be made effective next May. Developments in this field in Holland and Belgium are very skimish. France is just discovering some incidence of cancer resulting

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from exposure to asbestos. In the U.S.A., the Workmen's Compensation System works on a State-wide basis, but a contractor dealing with the Federal Government comes under the Federal law. Later, a bill has been enacted, the Federal Coal Mine Safety Act of 1969. In one blow, the standard was brought down from 50 mg. to 3 mg. in underground coal mines. For the first time the coal workers are receiving workmen's compensation from the Federal Government. There is no doubt that other groups of industrial workers will ask for the same privileges. The States are slated to take over in three years with the same standards. This new act also gives the workers the right to ask for a transfer from one job to another. A mechanism is planned so that the Bureau of Safety and Health would set standards preliminary to any legislation under the Walsh-Healey act.

Up till recently, noise was number 1 and asbestos number 7 in the priority list. At this moment, asbestos is number 1. Criteria have been recommended as well as an interim Standard for the prevention of asbestosis under the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. (This is a responsibility of Dr. Stockinger). The interim Standard has been set at 12 f.p.c.c. A new ACGIH Standard being presently drafted will be 5 f.p.c.c. At a second meeting on the subject held a few weeks ago, objections were raised to 5 f.p.c.c., some saying it should be 2 and eventually 1 in 1972. At this moment, the major reason for not having standards of 2 and 1 f.p.c.c. is the I.O. E.H. Industry as a whole is desirous to do what is necessary, but haste is not desirable. More information is needed to set such Standards at a reasonable level. No doubt separate levels should be set for various groups, but this is not practical. There are still very important mysteries, especially as to co-carcinogens.

Dust control needs to be further investigated. It is generally agreed that dust samples are laborious to count. The new electronic device mentioned previously (see p.3, para.3) can scan dust sample slides or cells at a rate of 5,000 per minute. This unit has a great potential; for the first time it is possible to monitor effectively an environment.

5.

Another problem that has developed over the years is the electron microscope fibers (E.M. fibers). What is their meaning? They are possibly meaningless in terms of asbestosis, but not of cancer. And what about fibre contaminants or co-carcinogens? This is an important aspect to consider. Recently a research project on this problem was submitted to the Scientific Committee but not accepted, because the results would not give the answer.

In the U.S.A., there exists a Federal Clean Air Act. A standard can be set for anything in the air. There is still a lack of information concerning the question posed by ferruginous bodies as possible evidence of generalized exposure to asbestos. Lately, the Scientific Committee turned down a research proposal on this subject, because it was not properly designed and too expensive. The possibility of conducting a pilot project should be investigated.

In closing, Dr. Wright stated that: "The Scientific Committee has strongly recommended a continuation study to Dr. McDonald's survey. This will permit a much broader base so as to avoid a debate between two sides. The study in New Orleans is progressing very well. However, as a Committee we surely do not think that we have all the information needed. We hope that Q.A.M.A. is still interested and it should be added that the members of the Committee give a lot of time and effort to this work".

At this point, a few questions were asked.

Question - Is the incidence of mesothelioma in U.K. and the U.S.A. the same?

Answer - This is not presently being pursued in U.S.A.

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Question - What is the evidence to determine T.L.V's?

Answer - There was no good reason for a standard of 12 f.p.c.c. 2 1/2 years ago; it was just a compromise.

Shipyard workers near Boston seem to have developed asbestosis with something less than 12 f.p.c.c. We do not have, however, the counts to really prove this. Britain does not have such information either.

Question - Is there any correlation between particles and fibres?

Answer - Yes, that can be done.

Question - Is there not a trend in U.K. to consider the total exposure during one's life time, rather than the concentration during one particular exposure period?

Answer - In England the scientists are willing to accept this theory.

Question - What about the other research projects?

Answer - Dr. Vigliani's study at the Balangero Mine (a chrysotile mine) provides reasonably good records. The data so far collected seem to confirm the results of Dr. McDonald. Dr. Vigliani is also looking into the Shipyard workers at La Spezia; unfortunately he is not as far advanced with his study as he would have liked. In the case of Dr. Noro, his study covers both producers and users of antophyllite asbestos.

Question - When will Dr. McDonald's formal report be presented?

Answer - This depends on the publication time of medical journals; the writing itself is finished.

The President conveyed the thanks of the Q.A.M.A. to Dr. Wright and the cordial applause of the group expressed vividly the assurance that the industry was still vitally interested in this problem.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Paul-A. Filteau,
General Manager
&
Secretary.