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NEWNAN, GEORGIA
TELEPHONE AL 3-0611
4 February 1964



Mr. A.C. Link
United States Rubber Company
Hogansville, Georgia

Dear Mr. Link:

We have received a communication from Dr. Louis Cralley of the United States Public Health Service dated 17 January 1964.

This is entitled, "Implementing Plan Of Occupational Health Study Of Asbestos Products Industry."

In our numerous discussions regarding this proposal I believe the following to be a representation of our opinion.

There are two basic considerations involved. One, immediate; and the other, long term.

The immediate consideration relates to the personal interest of the United States Rubber Company in Hogansville as regards the day-by-day early detection of asbestos disease, protection of workers, improvement of personnel morale and avoidance of costly litigation. Our program has been in continuous operation since 1957, and the results, I believe, are tangible in regard to the above specified points with the added dividends of better worker morale and diminution of fear. I can see no immediate benefit whatsoever in our participating in Public Health Study. There may be a long term benefit which we could only hope to receive over the course of three or more decades.

It would seem that the United States Rubber Company might have a general obligation, as a constituent member of the textile industry, to help accumulate data which over the course of decades would be of benefit to succeeding generations.

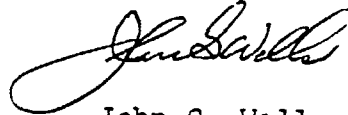
In addition to the obligation of citizenship are the considerations relating to our own people who have gone on record as tentatively favoring the United States Public Health Service Plan.

I believe we should be willing therefore to co-operate with the Public Health Study with the clear understanding that we are performing an obligation of citizenship which will produce no immediate benefit to the United States Rubber Company; and which if handled according to the original proposal could well produce havoc in our carefully nurtured program.

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If the Public Health Service would be content to work through us, and with no immediate contact with the working population, I believe we could participate in the plan.

Yours very truly,



John G. Wells, M.D.

JGV/fj

CC: Mr. John Alexander
Mr. D. T. Austin

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