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TO [illegible]
LOCATION New York

FROM [illegible]
LOCATION [illegible]

cc Messrs: Bien, Clement, Darrell, Dent, Faneuf, Fassuliotis, Fraser, Van Luren, Weiner, Wilcox

SUBJECT: The [illegible] on ASBESTOS FIBER

Local Publicity

Attached is a recent article in the Manville News which is similar to those that have appeared elsewhere in the last week on the hazards of asbestos dust. Dr. Borow and his brother ran a "shady" hospital in Bound Brook, which was eventually shut-down and they were not granted a permit to rebuild. People who worked there have no respect for him.

The J-M plant union, I am told, has consistently pushed this type of publicity and also has made numerous requests to OSHA for inspections of the Manville plant. They are now urging OSHA to make inspections of other companys in the vicinity that utilize asbestos in their operations.

Clothing

Smocks, coveralls, jackets and pants made from spun bonded polyolefin are purchased by J-M from Texier H. Glove Co. Inc., U.S. Highway 22, North Plainfield, New Jersey. These garments are produced by Worklon in Huntington, Long Island, New York, and for some reason the direct price from them is higher than the distributor in Plainfield.

Asbestos Level Dust Control

It is believed that asbestos levels can be controlled to the 5 fiber TLV. It is claimed that reduction below 2 is impractical in some operations and the method of measurement is not sufficiently accurate to justify consistent control at this value. Work areas where the count is 3 fibers per cc appear to be crystal clear to the naked eye in normal light. J-M uses a high intensity light beam unit to scan work areas for a quick determination of dust levels.

For the Manufacturing Managers, I am enclosing a copy of the Asbestos Research Council's pamphlet on, "The Measurement of Airborne Asbestos Dust by the Membrane Filter Method" which is specified by OSHA.

Can you find out?

P. S. Bettoli

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RECEIVED
MAR 23 1972
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Manager EED

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Asbestos Workers' Plight Receives National Attention

The plight of asbestos workers here in Manville and in other asbestos plants throughout the United States has finally come to the attention of government officials. The federal Department of Labor this week began hearings on new standards governing the amount of asbestos particles per volume of space or air considered to be safe to breathe.

At a press conference Tuesday in Washington, D.C. called by the Industrial Union Department of the AFL-CIO, Dr. Max Borow of Bound Brook called the attention of those assembled to the rare cancer — mesothelioma — which is ever increasing numbers afflicts asbestos workers.

Dr. Borow asked that in the past 10 years he has seen 52 cases of mesothelioma, a cancer so rare that a majority of the medical profession was not aware of it until recently.

In its statement to the press, the IUD said that the situation at the Manville asbestos plant "is one of the reasons why we demanded an emergency standard for asbestos." The IUD statement declared it is estimated that in Manville "excess mortality due to lung cancer involving asbestos may be expected to reach 200 to 300 cases."

The Johns-Manville plant here has been focused on because "the facts are best documented in Manville and because these facts illustrate the need for stringent controls."

Local 800, United Papermakers and Paperworkers, officials for quite some time have been arguing for safer working conditions at the J-M plant. Last year they asked for the assistance of Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, one of the country's foremost authorities on asbestos related diseases, in an attempt to get hard facts regarding the amount of disease at the local asbestos plant.

Dr. Selikoff presently is involved in analyzing health histories of a number of J-M workers in an attempt to establish whether or not new and improved safety devices at the local asbestos plant have had any effect on the workers' health.

In preparation for the public hearings before the Labor Department, the IUD and Local 800 officials have been gathering information in support of the labor movement's request for the creation of a strong and effective permanent enforcement standard on asbestos under the Occupational and Safety Health Act, to protect workers who are exposed to asbestos fiber dust.

The United Papermakers and Paperworkers International Union, in a statement to the press Tuesday, said that current information on asbestos related diseases among workers at the Manville plant "may well be indicative of similar tragic health problems in many other areas where workers are exposed to the inhalation of asbestos dust."

The UPP urged the Secretary of Labor to "quickly enact a permanent enforcement standard on asbestos, with criteria at least as strict as those suggested by Dr. Selikoff as a necessary step in protecting the health and lives of asbestos workers."

Dr. Selikoff together with Dr. A. Holaday, chief engineer at the Environmental Science Laboratory, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, last year submitted a brief to the Labor Department urging a change of the Threshold Limit Value (the maximum number of particles per volume of space of air considered to be safe to breath).

Drs. Selikoff and Holaday argue that present TLVs have been concerned with asbestosis (lung scarring caused by the inhalation of asbestos dust). They pointed out that asbestosis is only one small part of the health problems facing the asbestos worker since "three-fourths of excess deaths among asbestos insulation workers, for example, are due to cancers."

There are presently no data relating to TLVs for the prevention of cancer, such as mesothelioma, according to Drs. Selikoff and Holaday. Thus, they note, any TLV for asbestos "would have to be less than is needed to prevent asbestosis, if we are to hope to prevent asbestos-induced cancer."

What has hindered the asbestos industry and physicians in the collection of significant data relating to TLVs for the prevention of asbestos-induced diseases is the long period which must elapse between inhalation of asbestos and evidence of disease.

It can take up to 30 years from onset of exposure to asbestos for disease to become apparent. Due to this time factor and due to the fact that very few reliable dust measurements were made 30 years ago, the effectiveness of TLVs used then are unreliable.

Since no "safe" TLVs for asbestos are known, Drs. Selikoff and Holaday charge that a discussion of TLVs is "irrelevent to current occupational asbestos exposure of workmen." The two scientists urge that instead of TLVs, the Labor Department should set performance standards for every industrial asbestos use.

In no case, said the Mount Sinai team, "should use be allowed that would result in a workman remaining in an atmosphere containing more than 2 fibers per cubic centimeter."

Robert Klinger, vice president of Local 800, said yesterday that the UPP has endorsed Drs. Selikoff's and Holaday's standard. The Labor Department last December placed in effect an emergency standard of five fibers per cubic centimeter.

It is the function of the Labor Department's public hearings to determine what the new safety standard should be. The department has until May 10 come up with a new standard, according to Joseph Mondrone, president of Local 800.

Mr. Mondrone, together with Mr. Klinger and Marshall Smith, UPP representative and former Local 800 president, attended the Washington meetings this week. The union officials were accompanied by a J-M employee who lives in Manville and who is afflicted with mesothelioma. The worker Dan Maciborski, testified before IUD officials.

The local J-M plant until 1968 used a TLV of five million particles per cubic foot, a standard established by the American Conference of Governmental Hygienists in 1938. These standards were reduced two years ago to allow a TLV of five fibers per cubic centimeter, with a ceiling of 10 fibers per cc.

In 1968, J-M adopted a TLV of six fibers per cc with the provise that any new or rebuilt dust control systems attain a level of two fibers per cc.

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