PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
TN-5773

Item 15(c)

TURNER & NEWALL LIMITED
Board Meeting, 29th October 1970

Asbestos and health progress report
for quarter ended 30th September 1970

Government

The Department of Employment and Productivity has now issued its Guidance Booklet "Health and Safety at Work, No.44". While the booklet carries a strong recommendation for the use of asbestos substitutes, most of the amendments suggested by the A.R.C. following study of the draft were adopted. Readers with particular problems are recommended to contact the A.R.C.

Contact has been made with the International Labour Organisation, both through the Employers' Delegate in the United Kingdom and other I.L.O. delegates at a recent conference in Sardinia. Every effort is being made to ensure that the A.R.C. is represented when the study of asbestos-associated diseases is undertaken by a committee of experts in 1972/3.

The Ministry of Defence has issued a booklet for naval personnel entitled "Working with Asbestos". The booklet states that the amount of asbestos in naval specifications is now less than 10% of what it was in 1966. Substitutes are recommended for most asbestos products, except dust-suppressed asbestos cloth for local protection against fire, resin-bonded asbestos fibre, high temperature jointing and packing materials, bearing materials and brake-linings.

Medical

A meeting of H.M. Senior Medical Inspector of Factories Advisory Panel on Problems Arising from the Use of Asbestos was held on Monday, 21st September 1970 in London.

The main purpose of this meeting was to plan a survey of workers in the asbestos industry enlisting the aid of the Medical Officers of Cape Asbestos Co. Ltd., BBA Group Ltd. and T.& N.Ltd., as well as Surgeon Commander P. G. Harries of the Medical Research Unit, Royal Naval Dockyard, Devonport.

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The purpose of the main survey is:-

a) to validate the hygiene standards required under the Asbestos Regulations 1969 and

b) to determine the value of chest radiography in monitoring the health of asbestos workers.

It is envisaged that other supplementary studies will be undertaken simultaneously such as changes in respiratory physiology and their long-term significance, sickness patterns as revealed by hospital record linkage, the significance of immunological phenomena in the natural history of consequences of asbestos exposure and the significance of short-term exposure to asbestos. The survey is to be made in two parts; in the first stage the Medical Officers of the major asbestos companies and the Naval Dockyards will obtain the basic information. In the second stage smaller firms covered by the Asbestos Regulations 1969 will be included. It is not possible to state when the second stage will begin or what procedures or personnel will be involved.

The meeting failed to complete the agenda due to insufficient time being available. An interesting discussion developed with regard to the definition of an asbestos worker and it is evident that until an adequate definition is available, many difficulties will be encountered. Private discussions are at present going on to attempt to clarify the problems of definition, administration of the scheme and data collection. Another meeting of the Panel will be held in November.

Customers

During the quarter 128 enquiries were received by the A.I.C. and passed to the A.R.C./E.C.C. for attention.

Joseph Lucas Limited

In the previous report, reference was made to the serious difficulties encountered by Lucas with the local Factory Inspector about the new Asbestos Regulations. Following approaches by the A.R.C., the Head of H.M. Factory Inspectorate's Industrial Hygiene Laboratory undertook to approach the local Factory Inspector. The result of this action is not yet known.

I.C.I.

A recent visit by representatives of the A.R.C. and A.I.C. to Billingham indicated a more sensible attitude towards asbestos than hitherto; apart from asbestos-containing thermal insulation, the I.C.I. approach to other asbestos products appeared reasonable.

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British Leyland (Austin-Morris) Ltd.

An A.I.C. visit to this company revealed that they have been studying their usage of asbestos in the light of the new Asbestos Regulations. They have concluded that there are no serious problems over asbestos in vehicle components, and their only real difficulty concerns the stripping of asbestos insulation with which in future they will probably dispense.

Docks

There were again no developments of any importance.

Overseas Liaison

a) U.S.A.

Dr. Holmes and Mr. Howe visited U.S.A. in August, primarily for discussions with Johns-Manville Corporation. The main purpose was to acquaint them with the history, objectives and achievements of the A.R.C. and the A.I.C., and to encourage the formation of an information committee in U.S.A.

It is understood that progress has been made towards the creation of a North American A.I.C. and several preliminary meetings have been held. Johns-Manville have, however, just advised us that a prospectus is being sent out to all asbestos product manufacturers in North America which will seek contributions to the committee's first annual budget of $150,000. It is not yet clear whether all contributors will be participating members of the committee. Our firm recommendation was that the committee should not have more than about four members, and this appeared to be accepted.

During their stay, Dr. Holmes and Mr. Howe became involved in the asbestos spray question. A discussion was arranged with the Commissioner of the New York Department of Air Resources, and they argued against the banning of asbestos spray for fire insulation in high-rise buildings. The outcome is not known as the City of New York has deferred its final decision.

b) Western Germany

The Wirtschaftsverband Asbest e.V. has just formed a co-ordinating committee to deal with all aspects of the asbestos dust situation, including the topics of publicity and co-operation with the A.I.C. and the A.R.C. The first meeting of the committee took place on 9th September.



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An article appeared in the economic supplement of the "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" of 18th July which contained the statement that in England, asbestos dust in industry causes more deaths per annum through lung diseases than cigarette smoking. A suitable letter was sent to the editor from the A.I.C; the letter has not yet been published, but the editor has stated that he has passed it to the writer of the article for his comments.

c) Benelux Countries

The Benelux Asbestos Information Committee has created a Medical Advisory Board to provide guidance on health matters. Four of the five members are independent professors (two Belgian and two Dutch), and the fifth is the Medical Officer of the Eternit Kapelle factories. The first meeting of the Board took place on 10th August.

d) France

The Chambre Syndicale de l'Amiante has formed the Comité Français d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Effets Biologiques de l'Amiante. Although the body does not yet exist as a legal entity, it is already functioning, and sent delegates to the recent conference in Sardinia. Most of the activities of the committee will resemble those of the A.R.C., but it is intended to form an information sub-committee if and when it is considered that the situation warrants it.

Press Relations

At the beginning of July national and provincial papers reported eight mesothelioma deaths in Nottingham as the result of exposure to asbestos dust during the wartime manufacture of gas masks in a Boots factory. Dr. W. H. Parry, City M.O.H., was subsequently reported in newspapers and on radio to have appealed to other wartime workers in the factory to come forward for medical examination. The appeal appears not to have brought forward any patients. The exposure was to Crocidolite.

The cases were reported by Dr. J.S.P. Jones, Consultant Pathologist at Nottingham City Hospital, in a paper presented to an International Forensic Science Congress in Toronto. He is now preparing a more detailed paper for publication in the British Journal of Industrial Medicine, when further publicity may be anticipated. He has promised an advance copy of the article to Dr. S. Holmes.

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A.I.C. comments on an article by John Riley (General and Municipal Workers Union) in the "Morning Star" on asbestos health hazards to insulation workers were published on 21st August, and on the pre-damping techniques for sprayed insulation and the safety of occupants of spray-insulated buildings in "Building" on 31st July.

A critique prepared by the A.I.C. on "The Doomsday Book" by Gordon Rattray Taylor, which exaggerates the asbestos/health risk and accuses the asbestos industry of delaying tactics in securing adequate control, has been sent to the publisher and the author.

A short report from Pretoria that "asbestos is not the killer dust it is often made out to be" has received widespread national and provincial notice. It was based on work of the South African Medical Research Council which shows that it is doubtful whether inhalation of asbestos dust alone would cause tumours to develop in the lungs.

The "Sunday Times" in a long article on cancer prevention by its Science Correspondent on 20th September, concluded that "nobody knows" whether the very small exposure most of us may have to asbestos matters. The A.I.C. has been in touch with the Correspondent who has agreed that the evidence is, in fact, reassuring.

Literature

The A.I.C. has published three more leaflets: "Asbestos and Health in Perspective", for architects and builders; "Why Asbestos?" for the general reader; and a short pamphlet introducing the new A.I.C. film.

Advertising

The campaign described in our last report "Where would we be without asbestos?") will run until the end of November.

A special coupon advertisement drawing attention to the availability of A.R.C. Control and Safety Guides and listing them, under the heading "Asbestos Regulations 1969", has been cleared with H.M. Factory Inspectorate for insertion in October, November and December in Annals of Occupational Hygiene, the British Journal of Occupational Safety, Protection, Safety and Rescue, Industrial Safety and Industrial Management.

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Film

The A.I.C. film "Why Asbestos?" was completed in September and received its Première in London on 1st October. The initial reception of the film has been favourable.

So far, 65 copies have been ordered, of which 27 are intended for film libraries that will be largely responsible for its showing. Up to now, orders for 14 copies have been received from overseas; these and other copies will be sold at a price yielding a profit to offset some of the cost of the film.

Speakers Panel

Because of holidays, only one group of Safety Officers was addressed by the Panel during the quarter. Arrangements have been made for 11 groups and societies to be addressed during the period October/December 1970, and other engagements early in 1971 have already been booked.

A.I.C. Expenses

The expenses of the A.I.C. for June, July and August 1970 were:-

	£
Hill and Knowlton staff-time charges	3,638
Hill and Knowlton out-of-pocket expenses	1,164
	4,802
Taylor Wishart Ltd. (Advertising)	448
BBA Group Ltd. (Expenses incurred on printing and display work)	258
	5,508

The T.& N.Ltd. share of these expenses amounted to £3,198.

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MRC

Medical Research Council

MRC Pneumoconiosis Unit
Llandough Hospital
Penarth, Glamorgan CF6 1XW

telephone Penarth 708761

reference JCG/BBl.
208-7-4.
508-10A.

4th January, 1974.

Dear David,

Have you seen the recent series of articles in the "New Yorker" - Annals of Industry - by Paul Brodeur (October-December 1973)? I enclose reprints of parts of these because they refer to the British Occupational Hygiene Society's standard for asbestos. The articles in general deal with the industrial hygiene scene in the USA.

I think perhaps the BOHS Standards Committee should be aware of the articles because of the unpleasant and quite erroneous innuendoes about the source of material for the BOHS standard.

Stephen Holmes and his colleagues know of the articles. Inquiries, I think, have been made as to what might be done about them. The "New Yorker" apparently does not accept letters so there is no means of refuting the statements relating to BOHS in public.

Perhaps the best line is to refer to the articles when the publication on the further analysis of the Rochdale data is available.

I suppose that the Standards Committee might consider whether they thought it appropriate to issue a statement now in the Annals, I think it is better to keep out of a lot of muddy water.

I enclose a copy of a letter I have sent to Dr. Selikoff arising out of the article in the "New Yorker" of October 29th. This is clearly a very important statement if true.

Christopher Wagner will be able to attend to take on Tele.

Yours,

J.C. Gilson, F.R.C.P.

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0049-0661

COPY

JCG/EEL.
508-104.
208-7-4. 4th January, 1974.

Dear Irving,

I have recently seen in the "New Yorker" of October 29 a letter you are said to have sent to Mr. Hodgson (Secretary of Labour) in which you are quoted as saying, "Our research in one asbestos trade - insulation work - demonstrates that work in the past in areas with levels of two to three fibres per cubic centimeter of air has resulted in a very great increase of death due to cancer and to asbestosis".

This is clearly a most important statement which the BOHS Standards Committee might wish to explore further when next reviewing their asbestos standard.

Could you let me have the references to the evidence for this statement? It would help the Committee considerably if you could include the type of asbestos which was being counted; details of the technique used; and also the sizes of the fibres being measured. Perhaps all this information is in the reference which I have overlooked.

With best wishes for the New Year.

Yours,

J.C.Gilson, F.R.C.P.

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c.c Dr.D. E. Hickish.

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