

Manufacturing Chemists' Association, Inc.

(FOUNDED 1872)

1625 EYE STREET, N. W.

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

MINUTES OF MEETING

PLASTICS COMMITTEE

Manhattan Club, New York City

October 15, 1957

PRESENT:

Messrs. R. K. Mueller, Monsanto Chemical Company
 R. A. Hoekelman, American Cyanamid Company
 Bjorn Andersen, Celanese Corporation of America
 C. B. Branch, The Dow Chemical Company
 T. J. Kinsella, Allied Chemical & Dye Corporation
 A. R. Marusi, The Borden Company
 J. D. Benedito (for G. C. Miller), Union Carbide Corp.
 R. K. Turner, Bakelite Company
 George Wash, Phillips Chemical Company
 J. K. Honish, Chairman, Bldg. & Code Com., Bakelite Co.
 F. H. Carman, MCA

ABSENT:

Messrs. D. S. Frederick, Rohm & Haas Company
 H. R. Thies, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
 G. R. Vila, United States Rubber Company
 J. D. Wright, Canadian Industries Limited

BUILDING PROGRAM

Progress in the building program and plans for the immediate future were reported to the Committee by Mr. J. K. Honish, Chairman of the Plastics in Building and Code Subcommittee. He expressed appreciation on behalf of the Subcommittee for the support given by the Plastics Committee and the Executive members. He advised that the new staff man in the Washington office was working very well with the industry people and with building officials. Excellent working relationship has been maintained with the SPI Code Advisory Committee and the SPI staff.

In the code field, the recent approval of a new Chapter on plastics for the ICBO Uniform Code is regarded as a milestone, and should point the way for acceptance of similar provisions by officials of other code groups. He outlined briefly the immediate plans for work with the Southern Building Congress and the Building Officials Conference of America.

With adoption of the Chapter in the Uniform Code, the Committee now has a problem of education of the plastics industry to work with the code and the building officials, and to make sure that high standards of safety and quality are maintained in plastics uses. The MCA group will immediately concern itself with a manufacturers certification form in cooperation with the SPI group.

Many of the MCA representatives are not satisfied with the progress made in the public relations and publicity fields and a new program is to be considered. Another subject which must be given consideration by the Committee, is the flammable test problem and activities of the Underwriters' Laboratories. Again there is no recommendation at this time.

Mr. Honish commented briefly on the plans of the SPI group and others in furthering the education of the fabricators and users and indicated that a product data book is under consideration. Over the long term, it is quite possible some standardization of test data will be necessary. At this time, such data books and standardization of test data are being considered only in a preliminary way by the SPI Committee.

To enable Chairman R. K. Mueller, a member of the SPI Board of Directors, to acquaint that group with the progress and plans of MCA, it was suggested that he be provided with a suitable memorandum on these subjects for presentation to their Board meeting, October 31.

PLASTICS INSTITUTE

Proposals of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) to set up a Plastics Institute have been discussed informally in the past, and several letters have been widely distributed. Following discussion of such undertakings in foreign countries as well as in the United States, similar activities in this research field by other industries, and the growing need for such research organizations representing the plastics industry, it was the opinion of the group that MCA representatives should be kept advised of the SPE program particularly with respect to its organization and financing. This seemed necessary because of the possible overlapping of fundamental research programs which the material people might be expected to sponsor in the future, and its possible duplication of the work now being sponsored at MIT.

The members present speaking for their companies were not in favor of the Plastics Institute program on the basis of what they now know of the program, and did not recommend any action on the part of MCA. It was the opinion that an MCA staff representative should not serve on a Subcommittee concerned with affiliation and location of the Institute.

The Committee did suggest that informal contacts be made with the SPE officials indicating the interest of the material manufacturers in such long term programs in behalf of the industry, and that we were interested in knowing their plans regarding organization and financing. If the material people are expected to participate in the financing of such an Institute, it was the sense of those present that, based on information now available, they would prefer

to participate in this work only through MCA (such as in the research at MIT) rather than as individual companies. It is understood that informal contacts will be made with the SPE President and chairman of their Institute Committee for further details.

PLASTICS PROGRAM FINANCING

A report showing expenditures for the first four months of the fiscal year (June, 1957-October 1957) together with receipts and cash on hand was submitted and approved.

PLASTICS FALL CONFERENCE

General expenses of the 1957 meeting at Oyster Harbors showing total cost of the group activities were outlined to the Committee.

Following review of the housing problems for the 1957 meeting and study of the Club proposals for future meetings, the Committee unanimously voted:

1. To reserve the Club for the three nights as proposed by the management, it being understood there would be no overlapping with other groups, and the representatives would be held responsible for reservations made for the three nights.
2. Advise the members that it is necessary to limit attendance to Club capacity along the lines proposed in letter of September 13, 1957 to the Committee using a policy of (1) permitting each member participating in the group activities to send three representatives, and (2) allowing additional representatives per company up to a total of five, (or six if capacity permits it) the increase permitted each company to be based on their participation in the Financial Package.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

The regular Semi-Annual Dinner is being scheduled for November 25, Monday evening prior to the full-day meeting November 26. No formal business program is warranted in view of the many other functions scheduled before and after this dinner.

The Committee was advised of a revision of the mailing list to send such reservation forms to the Executive Representative and his alternate. This will permit the Plastics Group executives to determine who should participate in such meetings in the future.

MIT RESEARCH

Because of the limitations of time and the forthcoming Technical Subcommittee meeting to review the MIT project, it was agreed that no action

should be taken by the Plastics Committee at this time. Comments of two absent members indicating support of the program were reported to the Committee.

NEXT MEETING

Tentatively scheduled for December 17 and will be called at discretion of the chairman.

Respectfully submitted,

F. H. Carman
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FHC:cms
October 22, 1957

cc: Mr. Marx Leva