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DATE: 1935 Feb 14

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter & Reply RE Coordinating Agency for Dust Investigation

February 14, 1935 WPY.CVS



Mr. Roger A. Hitchins
Room 909, 1608 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

SUBJECT: Coordinating Agency for
Dust Investigation

Dear Mr. Hitchins:

I have received your letter of February 6 with six inclosures pertinent to the Dust Symposium at Pittsburgh, the Temporary Organization Committee on Industrial Dust Problems, and Tentative Program of Initial Activities. I have read these with interest and am pleased to note that you are making progress in your endeavor to formulate means whereby industry may be kept informed on problems of dust diseases and also whereby the industrial health and legal hazards may be mitigated.

I have followed this problem rather closely for a number of years and am fully aware of its magnitude and importance to both workmen and industry. The Bureau of Mines has always considered dust diseases as an outstanding health problem in the mineral industries and although our funds for doing such work have been rather limited we have managed to make a number of investigations and have done work on practically all phases of the problem. We have recessed a great deal of our health work but I have managed to continue investigation and development of respirators and also a small amount of work on methods for making dust studies and determinations of dust in air. For the past several months, however, I have been endeavoring to resume the work and hope that the present Congress might be kind enough to take interest in our proposals and provide some funds.

I note that one of your inclosures relates to contributions for carrying on the work your committee proposes. I think the total sum estimated for the initial activities is modest and you should have no difficulty in raising it. I have often wondered why industry and the insurance companies, either alone or combined, had not set up many times this sum annually for work on dust problems. It is, of course, necessary to tell you that the Bureau of Mines does not have any funds which it can expend in this matter. It is illegal to make contributions of any kind unless specifically authorized by Congress. Accordingly, all we can contribute is our sympathy, good wishes, and any service or advice which we can give from our fund of information on the investigations we may make from time to time.

Very truly yours,

cc Mr Fieldner
cc file

William P. Yant, Supervising Engineer

C. C. Files

March 26, 1935. CEB:RB

[redacted]

Mr. W. G. Hazard,
Owens-Illinois Glass Co.,
Toledo, Ohio.

SUBJECT: Coordinating Agency for Dust Investigations.

Dear Bill:

Replying to your letters of March 20 and 22:

The idea of having some organization coordinate information on the dust problem is good. I shall be glad to discuss it with people who might be interested.

I am returning several carbon copies of your letters to Mr. Yant and me. I presume they were sent by mistake.

Sincerely,

Carlton E. Brown,
Associate Biochemist.

Encl.

cc Mr. Fieldner
cc Files

10108

File

May 27, 1935



Mr. A. W. Sherwood
Vice President
Owens-Illinois Glass Co.
Toledo, Ohio

SUBJECT: Organization for Dust Research

Dear Mr. Sherwood:

I am pleased to have your letter of May 14. Mr. D. C. Simpson and Mr. C. H. Soderberg, of your Company, both visited the dust laboratory early this month. Unfortunately I was out at the time of their visits, but Dr. Brown, who is in charge of the dust laboratory, showed them the air cleaner and gave them the information they desired.

In regard to a name for the dust organization, I have run the gamut of combinations of words "atmospheric, dust, institute, and foundation" to the point that I am not sure now which combination was my former selection. All of them are good though, as I stated, I prefer the word "Foundation" to the word "Institute." Since receiving your letter I find myself leaning toward the name "Air Hygiene Foundation." I presume this leaning has its origin in my background of work and experience which dealt with gases, vapors, and dusts, all of which would, of course, fall in the scope of the wording "Air Hygiene." This connotes more than the matters discussed at the Mellon Institute Symposium. But on the other hand I believe it is truly in the scope of matters in which industry should be and, eventually, will be interested. In fact we have had more requests and have done more work on gases and vapors than we have on dusts. I presume the reason for that is that gases and vapors usually produce an acute effect readily recognized by industry as an injury, whereas the effects of dust are slow in occurrence and present few visible signs. In fact there are still some people who believe that siliceous dusts are harmless.

Cordially yours,

William P. Yant
Supervising Engineer

cc Mr. Vielguer
cc file
Y

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