Also included are comments on the last paper by Newhouse and Smither that appeared in the May issue of Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine. I call your particular attention to the controversy concerning very small fibers and the criticism of the OSHA standard because it is limited to analysis by optical microscopy.

To the best of my knowledge, the latest NIOSH material is still in preliminary form. I am enclosing copies of the charts that where shown at the American Industrial Hygiene Conference in June and provided to me by NIOSH last month. This includes data on exposure in manufacturing as well as during brake repair.

The NIOSH data, showing very low time weighted average exposures for brake service mechanics in the studies they conducted, confirm the fact that the working conditions observed by Mt. Sinai personnel were not typical of the brake service industry. It is clear that the poor conditions observed by Mt. Sinai personnel were caused by improper work practices shown as blowing out drum with compressed air, machining without exhaust ventilation, etc. The fact that such conditions can exist indicates the industry has not done an adequate job of educating its customers in the safe handling of asbestos containing friction materials.

NIOSH will eventually publish guidelines for brake service mechanics but this will probably take quite a while. I suggest it would be useful for leaders in the industry to take some initiative in this direction either through an ad hoc committee of the AIA/NA or possibly through the FMSI. The AIA/NA has the advantage of having access, on an international basis, to scientific experts on medical questions and to technical experts on dust measurements.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/as

Enclosures

cc: Messrs. R. H. Mereness
E. W. Drislane