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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

MET-603

Mr. J. P. Woodard
Manager, Industrial Relations
Johns-Manville Company
22 East 40th Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Woodard:

I wrote Mr. Sabourin to find out what the employee's rights are in regard to employing his own physician for the treatment of occupational injury or illness. You will recall that I had gotten the impression from one of the mine operators in Thetford that the law specified that the employee should be treated by his own physician. I quote Mr. Sabourin's reply:

"Answering your inquiry I might say that under our Workmen's Compensation law in this Province the patient-claimant has the privilege of retaining his own physician. Up to a few years ago the patient-claimant was subject to treatment by the plant doctor. But the law as it now stands gives the patient-claimant the privilege of securing services by his own physician. At Asbestos, where Canadian Johns-Manville Company are operating, Dr. Stevenson is acting as a company doctor. Moreover, the company is there operating a hospital (in which is situated the clinic you visited the other day) and the hospital is under the direction of Dr. Stevenson, assisted by Dr. Smith. But the patients there may be treated by their own respective physician. As a matter of fact, Dr. Stevenson has always made it a point to direct an employee (whenever an alarming condition or a suspicious condition was disclosed by examination, to his own physician. He thus enjoys the confidence of the local physicians and of the employees as well."

Your unique position of maintaining a hospital which is under the supervision of your own physician, Dr. Stevenson, enables the company's interest in the treatment of occupational illness and injury to be preserved. The employment of a full-time physician for industrial health in Thetford Mines will, no doubt, furnish a measure of supervision in the treatment of occupational injuries and illness by both the physicians, but it cannot equal the working relationship between the company physician and local practitioners existing in Asbestos.

Mr. Sabourin informed me yesterday that Dr. Cartier had accepted the appointment as Medical Director of the health clinic in Thetford Mines. Mr. Sabourin is expecting to go to Pittsburgh for the Air Hygiene meetings and hopes to secure an invitation for Dr. Cartier also. They are hoping to get Col. Lanza and Dr. Gardner there for a discussion of their problems. With kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Medical Director

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