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December 8, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Hood

Subject: Council Participation in Mt. Sinai Environmental Health Services Studies - Asbestos Usage.

As is known by previous discussions and from reports, the Council is cooperating with and has designated Harry Howard, Bethlehem Steel to be its representative in deliberations conducted by Dr. Selikoff and Associates, Division of Environmental Health Studies, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, City University of New York in matters concerning asbestosis and associated diseases in shipyards. This memorandum is prepared following discussions with Dr. Duncan Holaday, Industrial Hygiene Engineer on the staff of Dr. Selikoff this date, with the purpose of sucienctly stating what this involvment is about.

For over twenty years Dr. Selikoff has interested himself in medical problems resulting from the use of asbestos. Having established to his satisfaction that asbestos can be dangerous to health and in the absence of a suitable substitute, health safeguards must be employed, in October of this year and ad hoc committee came into being with the expressed purpose of preparing a "Recommended Practices Manual for Asbestos Handling in Shipbuilding and Ship Repair". On this committee are representatives from the producing industry (Johns-Manville), the Navy, Bureau of Labor, Labor Unions, National Insulation Contractors Association and our Council along with the Mount Sinai study group.

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The Mount Sinai study group is funded by organized labor and asbestos producers (mainly Johns-Manville). It is the hope of Dr. Holladay, a retired public health service officer and principal staff officer on the project to complete the draft of the manual in late January. We will be given the opportunity to review its contents. Publication date is planned for February-March. This is the end of this project with the exception of possible follow-up for changes in the "state of the art".

The manual will not be concerned with incidence of disease, case histories of improper procedures, etc. It will attempt only to provide recommendations for best usage in respect to hazards. It is being developed as a practical tool by practical authors. It is not being prepared under any governmental agencies. We will have the opportunity not only of reviewing the work but distributing it to interested parties as a public service under

the grants to Mt. Sinai to private industry (shipyards) at no cost. No public fanfare is programmed or desired in this undertaking by the Mount Sinai group.

R. H. Mereness