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Item 15(a)

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Turner & Newall Limited

Board Meeting - 25th January, 1968

Asbestos and Health - Progress Report

21/1/68

Press Relations and Advertising

The "Times" Survey of Asbestos and the "Asbestos and Health" advertisements for architectural, building, municipal and educational journals have duly appeared. In view of the limited number of customers for the industry in the shipbuilding field the A.I.C. have decided to rely on personal contact rather than advertising to communicate with shipbuilders and ships' designers. On the other hand an advertising campaign stressing the positive merits of asbestos, particularly for fire protection, is being considered. A TV treatment on these lines has been produced for consideration by the B.B.C., and the Central Office of Information propose to produce a short film, for overseas consumption, with A.I.C. guidance. In addition Hill & Knowlton International have been asked to produce ideas for an A.I.C. film on the merits of asbestos. Further misleading articles in medical, technical and local journals have been challenged by appropriate letters to the editors.

Literature

The general pamphlet - "Asbestos-Safety and Control" has been exhaustively studied by A.I.C. members and is now being printed. It will be used primarily as background information for the industry's own staff, and will be accompanied by a document entitled "Putting the Case for Asbestos". No T. & N. companies have yet published pamphlets tailored to their own requirements on the health problem. The British Friction Materials Council are to publish a document dealing with the problems of the motor industry; this will cover the requirements of Ferodo Ltd. and R-B Ltd.

The Docks

The A.R.C. has sent its comments on the preliminary draft of the Docks Regulations to H.M. Factory Inspectorate. It has requested that (a) the new regulations should make it clear that they refer to asbestos in loose fibrous form and are not intended to refer to asbestos products in general and (b) asbestos should not be included in the list of Dangerous Goods. The A.R.C. is at present considering a draft Code of Practice which would be implemented in the Docks pending new regulations. Decasualisation and the labour problems stemming from its introduction seem temporarily to have diverted attention from asbestos.

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PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

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Architecture and Building

The A.I.C. document rebutting the "Leeds memorandum" circulated to University building officers has achieved its object in some quarters, e.g. at the University of Sussex, but not at others, e.g. the University of Colchester. Disturbingly, references to the "Leeds memorandum" appear sporadically in places, like the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board and the Borough Council of Kensington and Chelsea, quite outside the orbit of the Universities. Energetic action is taken whenever the A.I.C. is made aware of this happening to place its rebuttal document in the right hands.

The Department of Education and Science have now written to the few education authority architects known to have misunderstood their circular on the use of asbestos in laboratories and workshops, but in doing so have referred them to H.M. Factory Inspectorate for guidance on the health risk associated with the use of asbestos products for building.

Customers

Dr. Case and I met the personnel, engineering and medical representatives of I.C.I. on behalf of the asbestos industry, and established that the I.C.I. policy is to specify alternatives to asbestos for insulation purposes whenever possible, but that this policy does not officially extend to the use of asbestos products for building applications. There is some evidence however that there is some discrimination against asbestos products for building at lower levels in the regions. B.P. Chemicals Code of Practice is on similar lines to the A.R.C. Code, but unnecessarily severe on asbestos cloth lagging. We have not yet succeeded in having a sight of the C.E.G.B. Shell Chemicals or Metal Box Codes. The Albright and Wilson medical officer has suggested, in the Company's house magazine, that any employees who work with asbestos should give up smoking.

Parliamentary

The A.I.C. meeting with Members of Parliament at the House of Commons has been postponed, due to the illness of Alderman Jack McCann, C.B.E., M.P., until 30th January.

T.U.C.

The Report of the Annual Meeting of the T.U.C. contained 4 speeches by Union leaders, all of them disturbing. We shall consider the possibility of an A.I.C. meeting with Union leaders and the T.U.C. medical adviser, Dr. Murray, in the near future.

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World Health Organisation

The A.I.C. rebuttal paper on the dangers of using asbestos-cement pipes for water supplies is being held in reserve, since investigations in Geneva by Hill & Knowlton revealed that this is not a subject for investigation by the W.H.O. there. In Copenhagen, however, (the European H.Q. of the W.H.O.) Dr. Karvonen, head of the Department of Occupational Diseases, has delivered a paper on the general implications of asbestos as a health hazard, as the result of enquiries from one large Danish shipyard, which has since banned asbestos products completely. Since summaries of Dr. Karvonen's speech reveal it to be misleading and ill-informed Dr. S. Holmes, T.B.A.'s Industrial Hygienist and Secretary of the A.R.C., is visiting Copenhagen in January. Hill & Knowlton are arranging a further meeting with the World H.Q. of the W.H.O. in Geneva during January to ascertain the impact there of Dr. Karvonen's views.

British Occupational Hygiene Society

The report of the British Occupational Hygiene Society on which it is thought the Ministry of Labour will largely rely as a guide to what they should accept under the proposed new Regulations, is to be published soon. Dr. J. F. Knox and Dr. S. Holmes of T.B.A. were members of the Committee which prepared this report. The recommendations are very strict by international standards being based mainly on the best conditions in the T.B.A. Rochdale factory.

The A.R.C. has undertaken, at the request of the A.I.C., to engage in a formal programme of investigation of airborne asbestos dust in buildings comprising asbestos materials. T.A.C. Co. Ltd. is also doing laboratory work in this field and to determine whether asbestos-cement pressure pipes release asbestos fibres into water supplies. Very highly skilled electron microscopy is also being done by T.B.A. laboratories to try to determine the asbestos content in the general urban atmosphere.

A.I.C. Expenses

The expenses of the A.I.C. for September, October and November were as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Hill & Knowlton staff time charges	2,359	11	10
Hill & Knowlton out-of-pocket expenses	582	1	3
Taylor & Wishart (A.I.C. Advertisements)	1,527	10	0
TOTAL	4,468	3	1
The T. & N. share of these expenses amounted to	£2,473	3	3

John Waddell

Turner & Newall Limited
Board Meeting - 25th April 1968

Asbestos and Health - Progress Report
Quarter ended 31st March 1968

1. Statutory Regulations

Mr. J. M. Atkinson and Dr. S. Holmes of T.B.A. attended at the Ministry of Labour on 4th April to discuss the industry's comments (expressed in the Asbestos Research Council's letter of 7th July 1967) on the preliminary draft Regulations. Useful progress was made. The Ministry is accepting several of the most important submissions of the A.R.C.

2. Literature

The Asbestos Information Committee pamphlet 'Asbestos - Safety and Control' and the confidential 'aid for asbestos industry Sales Representatives' 'Putting the Case for Asbestos' have been published and circulated to all companies in the Group.

Publication is awaited daily of a report 'Hygiene Standards for Chrysotile Asbestos Dust' prepared by a Sub-Committee of the British Occupational Hygiene Society, and based largely on data accumulated over the years in T.B.A.'s Rochdale Factory. This is to be used as a guide by the Ministry of Labour in connection with the new Regulations.

3. Speakers Panel

The A.I.C. is building up a panel of speakers on asbestos who will be given proper training and briefing on health matters. A presentation was successfully given to an audience of Yorkshire plant engineers in Leeds by an A.I.C. panel on 13th March.

4. Press Relations and Advertising

The Central Office of Information film on asbestos is expected to be distributed in May.

Dr. A.F.L. Deeson was appointed by the A.I.C. as a retained medical journalist on an experimental basis for three months with effect from 1st March 1968, at a fee of £250 for the quarter plus a lineage of 30/-d. per hundred words published.

An unfortunate American report published here on the pollution of the air by asbestos from cars' braking was countered in several provincial newspapers by a letter from the Secretary of the A.I.C.

More press publicity can be expected on asbestos and health during and after a Conference on the subject which is being held in Dresden in the week of 22nd April.

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5. The Docks

The London dockers are still refusing to handle any sort of asbestos except in containers. The Asbestos Fibre Importers Committee and a representative of the A.I.C. are meeting soon to discuss a proposal that the Unions be approached afresh by the A.I.F.C. dock employers and shipowners regarding a programme of controlled trial shipments of asbestos fibre through London. Southampton, Hull and Liverpool are handling asbestos in press-packed bags wrapped and strapped on pallets. Newcastle, Glasgow, Manchester and Avonmouth are handling asbestos packed in impermeable bags without pallets. Smaller ports, with the exception of Leith and Grangemouth, will handle asbestos in impermeable bags, though sometimes at exorbitant rates. Crocidolite is being imported only in impermeable bags, wrapped and strapped on pallets.

Agreement has been reached between the Asbestos Research Council and the A.F.I.C. on a draft Code of Practice for handling asbestos in the docks. Printing will proceed, but publication is to be deferred pending the result of the A.I.C.-A.F.I.C. meeting on the London situation.

6. Architecture and Building

When the British Occupational Hygiene Society Report has been published it should be possible to relate the findings of the A.R.C. Research Committee, who are sponsoring dust counts of occupied buildings, construction sites and, in due course, the urban atmosphere, to the B.O.H.S. Standards. If the results on the two former are favourable, they will be communicated to architects by direct mail.

Representatives of the asbestos industry who sit on Committees of the British Standards Institution have been asked to resist the incorporation in British Standards of prominent warnings on the dangers of inhaling asbestos dust.

7. Customers

A questionnaire has been circulated to the sales forces of member companies of the A.I.C. with a view to identifying the key health 'policy maker' in each of the nationalised undertakings and of 204 leading industrial companies. When the list is available the A.I.C. will consider calling a conference, probably in London in the Autumn, to be addressed by experts of the calibre of Dr. J. C. Gilson (Medical Research Council) on the following subjects: (a) Why Asbestos?, (b) The health risk in perspective, (c) Control of the risk, and (d) Industrial hygiene advisory services. This would follow the publication of the statutory draft of the new Asbestos Regulations.

8. Parliamentary

15 Members of Parliament attended a meeting at the House of Commons on 30th January at which an A.I.C.

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panel explained the asbestos industry's achievements and policy on asbestos and health and answered M.P.'s questions. The panel received a favourable reception and was impressed by the responsible and informed approach of the M.P.'s present.

9. Civil Service

It appears that two interdepartmental meetings have now taken place on asbestos and health, the Ministries represented being Labour, Health, Housing and Local Government and Board of Trade. We have hearsay evidence that the civil servants present expressed balanced views, though we still understand that the Factory Inspectorate are proposing to circulate a list of substitutes for asbestos. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government circulated various bodies and companies in the asbestos industry on 5th January regarding the Disposal of Asbestos Waste. Representatives of the A.I.C., A.R.C. and the Asbestos Association will in due course be invited to a meeting at the Ministry to discuss the contents of a questionnaire and the sample of the industry to whom it should be sent.

10. World Health Organisation

Dr. Holmes, Secretary of the A.N.C., visited Copenhagen at the beginning of January and met Dr. Aage Grut, Director of the Danish Department of Occupational Health, and Mr. Hermann Pedersen of the Elsinore Shipyard, who had circulated a memorandum damaging to asbestos to the Association of Danish Shipbuilders. Mr. Pedersen has subsequently circulated an addendum to his original report, recommending (a) alternatives to asbestos, where possible, for insulation, and (b) a framing system for asbestos-based bulkheads which eliminates the necessity for screwing and drilling.

The A.I.C. have written to the Board of Trade drawing their attention to the damage which may be caused to the British asbestos industry's exports by irresponsible statements from officials of the World Health Organisation.

11. A.I.C. Expenses

The expenses of the A.I.C. for December 1967 and January and February 1968 were as follows:-

	£	s.	d.
Hill & Knowlton staff time charges	3,282.	1.	8
Hill & Knowlton out-of-pocket expenses	309.	8.	10
T.A.N.Co.Ltd. special expenses	60.	0.	0
	<u>3,851.</u>	<u>10.</u>	<u>6</u>

The T.A.N.Ltd. share of these expenses amounted to £2,185. 9. 4d.

JOHN WADDELL.