PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
MET-215

September 30, 1953.

Mr. B. A. Richardson, Editor,
Industry Report,
Retail Credit Company, Inc.,
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Mr. Richardson:

I have read with much interest your letter of September 17 and the enclosed report.

I think the report is quite accurate except the first four lines of the last paragraph. A clinic for the treatment of venereal disease has been attached to the Cooperative Clinic which affords the miners not only diagnosis but actual treatment, free of charge. The remainder of the last paragraph is accurate, but in the last sentence I would be inclined to leave out the comparison with the Federal Service and life insurance examinations.

I think the safety work in the Tri-State district is very highly and efficiently organized and I also think that the health conditions are very much better than they used to be, and that the clinic acts as a safeguard to the miners by giving them timely warning before any occupational disease has progressed too far, but I do not think that we can compare the Tri-State district with Southeastern Missouri where they do not have a silica dust hazard or any other occupational health hazard, so far as I am aware.

The silica dust problem has by no means been solved - far from it - and all that has been accomplished to date are the more or less successful efforts to reduce the quantity of the dust and to exercise close supervision over the physical condition of the men so that they may be removed from the industry as soon as they show any evidence of dust disease of the lungs. This is a great step forward, but is by no means a satisfactory solution of our difficulties.

Incidentally, the Tri-State Association and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company have an agreement with the United States Bureau of Mines that we will give out or publish no statement or material in regard to the Fisher Clinic without clearing it through the Bureau of Mines. I should like to suggest, therefore, that if you have not done so, you communicate with Dr. A. A. Sayers, Chief Surgeon, United States Bureau of Mines, Washington, D.C. and get his consent to the publication of the information about the Fisher Clinic.

May I take this occasion to express our enthusiastic appreciation of these monthly "Industry Reports" for their very accurate and comprehensive surveys of occupational health hazards. Not only do we find them very useful, but we commend them to company officials and others interested.

With best regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

A. J. Lanza, M.D.