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JOHN L. KEE, JR., M.D.

September 18, 1969

Mr. E. M. Snaveley
Pittsburgh-Corning Corporation
P. O. Box 3057
Tyler, Texas.

Re: Mr. James W. McMillan
Tyler, Texas.

Dear Mr. Snaveley:

You have asked me for a report concerning James W. McMillan, an employee of the Pittsburgh-Corning Corporation.

Mr. McMillan was referred to me by Dr. C. C. McDonald of Tyler, Texas. I first saw Mr. McMillan on the third of July, 1969, but I had seen x-rays made of his chest prior to that time in review. X-rays made of the chest of Mr. McMillan on October 19, 1967, showed a normal chest. He had no symptoms at that time. An x-ray taken in April, 1968, because he had noticed some shortness of breath showed thickening of the pleura surrounding the left chest. The shortness of breath became progressively worse. An x-ray made May 13th of this year showed gross progression of the thickening of the pleura with evidence that there was also fluid in the heart sac. By this time Mr. McMillan had lost approximately twenty-five pounds from his normal weight.

Dr. McDonald had removed some fluid from the left chest which had been examined but no malignant cells were found in this fluid. ~~The fluid was also negative for tuberculosis.~~

In the past history it is important to note that Mr. McMillan had worked for over twenty years in industrial plants where the blue asbestos mined in South Africa was used in the manufacturing processes. He also has been a cigarette smoker, smoking one pack of cigarettes daily for the past forty-five years.



Mr. E. M. Snavely

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On physical examination the main finding was marked restriction of the left chest on respiration. The breath sounds over the left lung were distant, heart sounds were normal, no enlarged lymph nodes could be palpated in the neck.

On the seventh of July at Baylor University Medical Center I did a left thoracotomy at which time I removed a generous portion of the thickened parietal pleura along with a considerable amount of fluid. From this material the pathology department made a diagnosis of malignant mesothelioma.

As you are probably aware malignant mesothelioma has been found to be associated with long exposure to asbestos dust. The so-called blue asbestos mined in South Africa has proven to be especially dangerous from the standpoint of the development of malignancy of the pleura.

Malignant mesothelioma is a type of slow growing neoplasm for which we have no treatment. It is compatible with months of and even years of life but eventually this neoplasm will cause death of the patient.

With very best regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Robert E. Shaw
Robert E. Shaw, M.D.

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