



Inter Office

Advanced Vehicle Engineering
and Technology

October 5, 1981

MEMO TO FILE:

cc: G. P. Bolling
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Subject: Asbestos Information Association Meeting - Alexandria, VA - 9/16/81

The following are my notes on the Asbestos Information Association (AIA) meeting held September 16, 1981 in the Alexandria, VA Holiday Inn. The AIA is a trade association of asbestos raw material producers, asbestos product manufacturers, etc., headquartered in Arlington, VA with ties to a similar International Association. AIA holds an Industry-Government Conference annually to bring their members and others up to date on developments in health, regulation, etc.

Federal agencies were the biggest group represented (probably because of closeness to Washington D.C.). Also attending were people from the automotive supplier companies - Bendix, CertainTeed, Rodgers, Armstrong, E. E. Porter and Borg-Warner. Only Ford and GM of the auto manufacturers were represented. GM's representative was W. H. Krebs, who holds a job similar to our Larry Koslowski.

All the speakers were excellent, even though a couple advertised stars sent stand-ins. In fact, the most interesting points made were these:

Thomas Hopkins, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) - Lead off the meeting with review of President Reagan's plans for regulation reform.

- The industry spends billions to comply with regulations and Reagan wants the unnecessary part identified and made available for productivity increments instead. So, under Presidential order, OMB has taken on a regulatory review function paralleling their budget function.
- The Reagan philosophy is: Consider new regulation only if market forces clearly fail. Then ask why and tailor a solution to the problem. Often the solution is "consumer information" rather than regulation. If regulation is necessary, make it performance rather than via specific design. OMB/Agency arbitration goes to V. P. Bush. New regulations will no longer necessarily favor engineering compliance over personal protective devices.
- He finds that regulations defining specific equipment and control methods tend to wash out the small, innovative manufacturer because of the capital expense to comply.

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