

FILE NAME: Industrial Hygiene Foundation (IHF)

DATE: 1934-1944

DOC#: IHF081

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Multiple Letters

# UNITED STATES ASBESTOS DIVISION

*of Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.*

MANHEIM, PENNA.

May 2, 1944

MAY 5 - 1944

Mr. S. Simpson, President  
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.  
Stratford, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Simpson:

Re: Industrial Hygiene  
Foundation of America, Inc.

After our conference in New York in January about the Metropolitan Life Insurance report on dust counts taken in the textile mill, I arranged with the Industrial Hygiene Foundation of America to send one of their engineers here to take dust counts in various textile departments. I am quoting from the summary from the Industrial Hygiene Foundation report:-

"This is a report of a study undertaken to locate the most important sources of dust and to develop additional dust control measures at the Manheim plant of U. S. Asbestos Division of Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc. Sixteen dust counts were made in various departments. These samples indicate that conditions in the Picker House are not satisfactory but dustiness in the Carding, Spinning and Twisting Departments is less than 5 million particles per cubic foot. Recommendations are made that can lead to a reduction of dustiness in the Picker House as well as in the Carding Department. It is believed that while the card room is under considerable negative pressure the consequent starvation of the exhaust equipment is probably not in itself sufficient to account for any marked reduction in control of dust."

I am also including herewith a record of the dust counts taken in the various departments.

| <u>Picker House</u>                                                                | <u>particles per cu. ft.</u> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| At Pan Crushers                                                                    | 8.7 million                  |
| Floor Batching                                                                     | 1.7 million                  |
| Batch feeding vertical opener                                                      | 9.9 million                  |
| 52 minute sample at central point of room for "general air"-(near vertical opener) | 5.6 million                  |

#2-Mr. S. Simpson

| <u>Carding</u>                                                       | <u>Particles<br/>per cu.ft.</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| General air conditions at various points<br>in the Breaker Card Room | 4.0 million                     |
| General air conditions in Finisher Card Room                         | 2.8 million                     |
| At a point beside the condensers in<br>Breaker Card Room             | 3.8 million                     |
| At a point near the card condensers in the<br>Finisher Card Room     | 4.3 million                     |
| Along central aisle-Finisher Card Room                               | 4.8 million                     |

Spinning - - - -

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| At mules                 | 4.8 million |
| At L-Frames on 2nd floor | 3.6 million |
| At L-Frames on 1st floor | 2.0 million |

Twisters

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Average for all aisles | 4.0 million |
| Universal Winders      | 3.0 million |

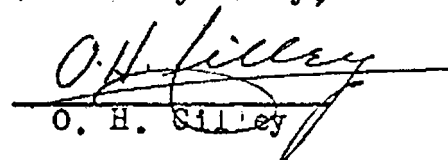
\* In commenting on this report on the phone, Mr. McMahon, Managing Director of the Industrial Hygiene Foundation stated, that the control of dust in this mill was far above the average for an asbestos textile plant. He indicated that a dust count under 5 million particles per cubic foot is good. However we recognize that this is a continuing program, and we propose to first correct the conditions in the Ricker House at those points where the dust concentration is over 5 million particles per cubic foot. We then propose to make some changes in the card room, which will result in further improvement.

We are continuing to experiment with the application of oil to the fibre. We believe that this will result in further improvement throughout the plant.

Please consider this as a preliminary report as I plan to advise you from time to time of improvements that have been made.

A little later, after we have made some changes suggested by the Industrial Hygiene Foundation engineer, we shall arrange with Mr. Fehnel, of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, to make additional dust counts in our various departments.

Yours very truly,

  
O. H. Silley

mrs.

# SOUTHERN ASBESTOS COMPANY

HIGH GRADE ASBESTOS TEXTILE PRODUCTS

CHARLOTTE, N.C. December 18, 1936.

Mr. S. Simpson, President,  
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.,  
Bridgeport, Conn.



Dear Mr. Simpson:

We have your letter of December 11th, for which we thank you.

We shall proceed as suggested by you through your Mr. Jeffords.

We are attaching herewith reprint of article published by J. Rush Shull of Charlotte. I am not sure whether you have seen a copy. This copy was sent to Mr. Schluter, who has asked that I pass it along to you that you can get Dr. Gardner's reaction for the benefit of our industry.

For your information, Dr. Shull, so far as my information goes, is usually found supporting the employees. I have heard rumors that other doctors do not subscribe to Mr. Shull's contention as set forth in this article.

Many of the employees referred to in the 77 cases listed in the article have worked for our Company. I am sure most of them have worked over a period of time for our Company, Carolina Asbestos, and your plant at Charleston.

We appreciate your cooperation and shall be very glad to extend your companies the same at any time we can be of service to you.

Yours very truly,  
SOUTHERN ASBESTOS COMPANY,

*Gus Fabel*  
President.

GSFabel-A.

RM102  
4-29-77

*First*

JOHNS-MANVILLE CORPORATION

TWENTY-TWO EAST FORTIETH STREET  
NEW YORK, N.Y.

✓

EXECUTIVE OFFICES



January 6, 1937

Mr. Sumner Simpson, President,  
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.,  
Bridgeport, Conn.

My dear Mr. Simpson:

Allow me to thank you for yours  
of January 5th enclosing a reprint of the article by  
Dr. Shull on "Asbestosis: A Roentgenologic Review  
of 71 Cases", together with copy of Mr. Fabel's letter  
of December 18th.

Very truly yours,

*Vandiver Brown*  
Vandiver Brown  
General Attorney

VB:T

*Sumner Simpson*

Bridgeport, Conn.  
November 10, 1936

Mr. F. H. Schluter, President,  
Thermoid Rubber Co.,  
Trenton, N. J.

My dear Mr. Schluter:

The writer and Mr. Vandiver Brown, of Johns-Manville, had a conference with Dr. Leroy Gardner, of Saranac, New York, and Dr. Lanza and Dr. McConnell, of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., with reference to the Asbestosis situation in the Asbestos industry.

As you no doubt know, Johns-Manville and ourselves have been doing considerable work, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., in the way of eliminating Asbestos Dust in our factories, and we have made a very satisfactory job of it.

We have now reached the point where we can eliminate a large part of the Dust, but as yet have no definite information as to what Asbestosis will lead into. They claim it leads to Tuberculosis, but we do not find this to be the case. Still, we cannot go into court and state definitely and specifically that it will not do so. We do know that Asbestos Fibres can, and do, get into the lungs, and may set up a Fibrosis condition, which, for want of a better name, some doctors have called Asbestosis.

Dr. Gardner has a well equipped laboratory, and a number of separate Dust Chambers in his Laboratory at Saranac, and he and his associates have been studying various types of Dust for a number of years, in connection with Tuberculosis, but practically nothing has been done with Asbestos.

In order to carry on a systematic Dust investigation, it takes from two to three years, and these investigations are generally paid for by industry, mostly working as a unit.

Dr. Gardner's Laboratory charge is \$5,000.00 per year, and any study should be based on a three year period, in order to get results that will stand up and be accepted by the medical fraternity, and, I believe, by the courts.

I think the Compensation Laws in the various states will become more rigid in the next few years and, no doubt, Asbestos, on account of the advertising it has had lately, will become one of the Compensation cases, and we should have all the information we can possibly get to submit to the Compensation Commissions of the various states when the question of Asbestosis comes up.

Dr. Gardner now has a Dust Chamber open and could start

11/10/36

work on experimenting with Asbestos at once, and has suggested to us that the Asbestos industry take over this East Chamber and employ him to carry on the experiments with guinea pigs and rabbits.

The idea of Mr. Brown and myself would be to have four or five (or even more if we could get them) Asbestos manufacturers take over this study by subscribing an equal amount per year, for three years, and then we could determine from time to time after the findings are made, whether we wish any publication or not. My own idea is that it would be a good thing to distribute the information among the medical fraternity, providing it is of the right type and would not injure our companies.

This would mean, if four of us went in to carry on this work, it would be \$1,250.00 a year for each one of us for a period of three years.

If you are interested in this subject, I should like to have a meeting in New York, on Tuesday, November 17, at 12:30 o'clock, at The Biltmore, or if this is not satisfactory, can make it any place you care to have it.

I am asking the following to attend the meeting,

Mr. Vandiver Brown, Johns-Manville, Inc. ✓  
Mr. F. H. Schluter, Thermoid Rubber Co. ✓  
Mr. A. S. Blagden, Keasbey & Mattison Co. ✓  
Mr. H. D. LaMont, Asbestos Manufacturing Co. ✓  
Mr. G. M. Williams, Russell Manufacturing Co. ✓  
Mr. S. Simpson, Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc. ✓

Is there any one else you would suggest?

Very truly yours,

SS-G.

President

✓

November 20, 1936

LeRoy U. Gardner, M. D., Director,  
The Saranac Laboratory,  
Saranac Lake, New York.

Dear Dr. Gardner:

At a meeting yesterday attended by certain brake lining manufacturers, Mr. Simpson and I were able to present to a fairly large group of interested corporations the proposal that one of your dusting chambers be engaged for further experimentation with asbestos dust.

The proposal was very well received and it appears that not less than eight, and perhaps ten or more, corporations will participate in financing these further experiments along the lines discussed when we met with Dr. Lanza and Dr. McConnell a few days ago.

Accordingly, you may consider this letter as an authorization to you to commence the contemplated experiments with asbestos dust for the purpose of determining more definitely the causes and effects of asbestosis. It is my understanding that, among other questions which it is anticipated these experiments will answer, are the following:

- (1) What concentration of dust is necessary to produce the fibrosis of the lungs which is designated as asbestosis.
- (2) Whether exposure to asbestos dust will produce asbestosis without the existence of previous infection and whether the X-ray changes found in advanced human asbestosis can be reproduced in animals without infection.
- (3) Whether the fibrosis produced by asbestos is of the progressive type, that is, will the fibrosis increase (once it has started) after exposure to the dust has ceased.

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11/22/36

- (4) Whether the fibrosis resulting from exposure to asbestos dust is occasioned by the silicon content of the asbestos or by its fibrous structure.
- (5) Whether the presence of "asbestos bodies" has any diagnostic significance.

It is also our understanding that these experiments will require approximately three years, which will mean that they will not be concluded until about the end of the year 1939; and that they will cost \$5,000 annually, or a total of \$15,000.

It is our further understanding that the results obtained will be considered the property of those who are advancing the required funds, who will determine whether, to what extent and in what manner they shall be made public. In the event it is deemed desirable that the results be made public, the manuscript of your study will be submitted to us for approval prior to publication. ✓

I shall appreciate your advising me if the foregoing accurately expresses the proposition you had in mind. Also, let me know the manner in which you would like to have the funds advanced to you. Would you, for example, desire to have \$1250 paid quarterly in advance, or just what arrangement would suit you best? Any method you suggest will be satisfactory.

Since the experiments are being underwritten by a relatively large group, it has been suggested that, as a matter of convenience, any communications regarding the work be addressed to me and I will, where necessary, communicate the contents thereof to Mr. Simpson and the other parties. You will be provided with funds by either Johns-Manville Corporation or Raybestos-Manhattan, Incorporated and we or they will secure from the other parties their pro rata contribution.

I will advise you later of the names of the other contributing parties.

I shall appreciate your informing me at the earliest possible moment whether the arrangement as outlined herein meets with your approval.

Sincerely yours,

*Vandiver Brown*  
Vandiver Brown  
General Attorney

VB:T

THE SARANAC LABORATORY FOR THE STUDY OF TUBERCULOSIS  
OF  
THE EDWARD L. TRUDEAU FOUNDATION

RECEIVED  
POST OFFICE BOX 111  
7 CHURCH STREET NOV 25 1936  
SARANAC LAKE, N.Y.

November 23, 1936



VIC. REGISTRAR  
REC. & TREAS. OFFICE

Mr. Vandiver Brown  
Johns-Manville Corporation  
22 East 40th Street  
New York City

Dear Mr. Brown:

Your authorization to proceed with the proposed asbestosis experiments at the Saranac Laboratory is acknowledged with satisfaction.

We believe that such experiments can be expected to furnish answers to the questions which you have outlined. The estimated cost of \$5,000 annually for a period of three years, making a total of \$15,000, is correct.

Your suggestion to make advanced quarterly payments of \$1,250 will be entirely satisfactory to the Laboratory. If this is not convenient any other arrangement that you may care to make will be acceptable.

The Saranac Laboratory agrees that the results of these studies shall become the property of the contributors and that the manuscripts of any reports shall be submitted for approval of the contributors before publication.

I would recommend that the experiments be performed with pure Canadian asbestos fibre containing relatively little serpentine rock dust. The "Kings Platts" used in our first experiment was unsatisfactory owing to the fact that it contained such a high concentration of non-fibrous rock dust. If this meets with your approval I would suggest that a sample be submitted to the Laboratory for chemical and petrographic analysis.

Having mutually satisfied ourselves as to the material to be used I would request that the companies agree to supply a sufficient quantity of asbestos, ground to the finest state of subdivision possible. I am not aware whether any of the contributors have apparatus capable of reducing fibres to inhalable dimensions. If this request should not

R-M 2276 P. 1

prove practical some arrangement for its final reduction will have to be made by the Laboratory. But at least the material received by us should be broken to powder.

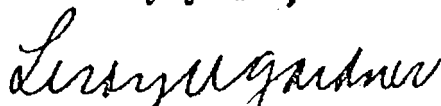
It is impossible to estimate the amount of material necessary for the experiments at the present time as its behavior in our dusting apparatus has never been determined. With the "Kings Floats" tests approximately 1200 pounds a year were required. It is conceivable that a pure fibrous dust might be dissipated into the atmosphere more rapidly and hence even a larger quantity would be necessary.

we are ready to start the work at any time and will be pleased to examine samples of dust as soon as they can be procured.

Thanking you for your cooperation in arranging this program, I am

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

  
Leroy U. Gardner, M.D.  
Director cc

LUG:CC



JOHNS-MANVILLE CORPORATION

TWENTY-TWO EAST FORTIETH STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

May 10, 1940.

Sumner Simpson, Esq.,  
President,  
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.,  
Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Re: Dr. Gardner's Experiments.

Dear Mr. Simpson:

I am sorry I was away when you telephoned me a few weeks ago. However, my secretary informed me of the matter about which you wished to speak to me.

In the same connection, I believe you will be interested in the attached excerpt from Air Hygiene Foundation Digest of April, 1940, covering current matters in the field of industrial hygiene. I have not read the original article, but it is apparent from the Digest that Dr. Gardner is already publishing, without seeking our advance approval, certain conclusions which his reports to us have indicated were arrived at as a result of the experiments underwritten by the textile group.

I shall appreciate your comments on this situation.

Sincerely,

*Vandiver Brown*  
Vandiver Brown,  
General Attorney.

VB:y  
Enc.

4-29-77 Jek  
D 4-11 11477 Rd

TWENTY-TWO EAST FORTIETH STREET  
NEW YORK, N.Y.



December 18, 1934

Mr. M. F. Judd,  
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.,  
Bridgeport, Conn.

Dear Mr. Judd:

Confirming our telephone conversation, I am enclosing herewith galley proof of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's preliminary study entitled "Effects of the Inhalation of Asbestos Dust upon the Lungs of Asbestos Workers".

I am also enclosing a copy of mine and Mr. Hobart's comments thereon.

I was just talking to Dr. Lanza and I am inclined to believe he will accede to most of our requests by making appropriate provisions in the article.

Very truly yours,

Vandiver Brown  
Attorney

VB:T  
Enclosures

REGISTERED MAIL  
SPECIAL DELIVERY



Revised 1/1/76

Bridgeport, Conn.

Jan. 2, 1935.

Mr. Vandiver Brown, Attorney,  
Johns-Manville Corporation,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your letter of Dec. 24.

Both Mr. Simpson and myself feel quite safe in leaving the approval of the report in your hands. I do think that Mr. Hobart made some excellent suggestions in his letter of Dec. 15, and hope that Dr. Lanza will give a lot of consideration to the comments.

I take it for granted that when this article comes off the press, the Metropolitan Insurance Company will see that you get copies of it, in which event, we certainly would like one for our files.

Yours very truly,

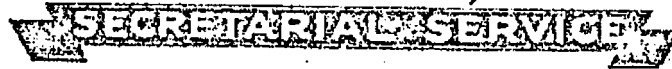
Secretary.

MEJ-O.

R 1145-<sup>Ad</sup>  
11.29.37

# "ASBESTOS"

Published by



16th Floor, Inquirer Bldg.  
PHILADELPHIA, PA., U. S. A.

September 25, 1935.

Mr. Sumner Simpson, President,  
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.,  
Bridgeport, Conn.

Dear Sir:

You may recall that we have written you on several occasions concerning the publishing of information, or discussion of, asbestosis and the work which has been, and is being done, to eliminate or at least reduce it.

Always you have requested that for certain obvious reasons we publish nothing, and, naturally your wishes have been respected.

Possibly by this time, however, the reasons for your objection to publicity on this subject have been eliminated, and if so, we would like very much to review the whole matter in "ASBESTOS".

Our thought is that we could either prepare from data which we have in our files, or obtain from Mr. W. A. Godfrey of the Cape Asbestos Company, London, who is much interested in the subject, an article on the work done in England and then follow it with an article written by someone in your organization, as to the work done here.

We understand from Mr. Stover that your North Charleston plant, contains very complete dust control equipment and a description of such equipment, if you approve, would make a very interesting part of the article. Possibly even you could supply a photograph or two showing some part of this dust-control equipment.

We await with much interest your reply. If there is no serious objection it would seem to be a most interesting subject for the pages of "ASBESTOS", and possibly a discussion of it in "ASBESTOS" along the right lines, would serve to combat some of the rather undesirable publicity given to it in current newspapers.

Very truly yours,  
"ASBESTOS"

*J. Rosin*

*Handwritten: Tuesday*

# — Johns-Manville —

TWENTY-TWO EAST FORTIETH STREET  
NEW YORK, N.Y.



October 3, 1935

Mr. S. Simpson, President,  
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.,  
Bridgeport, Conn.

My dear Mr. Simpson:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of yours of October 1st enclosing copy of the September 25th letter from the editor of the magazine "ASBESTOS". I quite agree with you that our interests are best served by having asbestosis receive the minimum of publicity. Even if we should eventually decide to raise no objection to the publication of an article on asbestosis in the magazine in question, I think we should warn the editors to use American data on the subject rather than English. Dr. Lanza has frequently remarked, to me personally and in some of his papers, that the clinical picture presented in North American localities where there is an asbestos dust hazard is considerably milder than that reported in England and South Africa.

I believe the question raised by Miss Rossiter might well be considered at the committee meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, at which I understand both you and Mr. Judd will be present.

Very truly yours,

*Vandiver Brown*  
Vandiver Brown  
Attorney

*Handwritten: H. J. Jones*  
VB:T

*Handwritten:*  
McClellan  
see above & tell  
him we are not  
interested  
*Handwritten:* J. D. Jones

*Handwritten:*  
R 2124-A-11  
4-29-77 Jk

✓

Bridgeport, Conn.  
Oct. 1, 1935

Mr. Vandiver Brown, Attorney,  
Johns-Manville Corp.,  
22 East 40th St.,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Brown:

Enclosed is copy of a letter received from Miss Rossiter, of "Asbestos."

As I see it personally, we would be just as well off to say nothing about it until our survey is complete. I think the less said about asbestos, the better off we are, but at the same time, we cannot lose track of the fact that there have been a number of articles on asbestos dust control and asbestosis in the British trade magazines. The magazine "Asbestos" is in business to publish articles affecting the trade and they have been very decent about not re-printing the English articles.

I shall be pleased to have your opinion in the matter.

Very truly yours,

SS-G.

Enc.

President

R 11125-42  
11.29.77 Jek

METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

FREDERICK H. ECKER, PRESIDENT

NEW YORK CITY

WILLIAM J. McCONNELL, M.D.

*Assistant Medical Director*

October 28, 1935

Mr. S. Simpson, President,  
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.  
Bridgeport, Conn.

Dear Mr. Simpson:

This will acknowledge your letter of October 19.

I shall be very pleased to see you Tuesday when you are in New York.

I assure you that arrangements had been made to assist your company  
in the present litigation.

Very truly yours,



W. J. McConnell, M.D.  
Assistant Medical Director  
Director, Industrial Health Section

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4-59-77

*W. J. McConnell*

Bridgeport, Conn.  
October 19, 1935

Dr. W. J. McConnell, Ass't. Medical Director,  
Industrial Health Section,  
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.,  
New York City.

My dear Dr. McConnell:

SUBJECT: Asbestos Dust at North Charleston Plant.

As you know, our plant at North Charleston, as well as the other Divisions, have been working with your Company for a long time in the acquiring of information, medical and otherwise, regarding Asbestos Dust hazards and Asbestosis.

We have had a number of suits, as you are aware, for which you have assisted us to prepare, and at the last trial, your Mr. Fehnel testified. We have depended on your Company to present certain information that our attorney, Mr. Julian Mitchell, of Charleston, S. C., desired, and we were at a standstill to know what to do and carry on with these suits, for I again say we had depended on your Company's assistance. Naturally, we were very much upset last week when Mr. Jettford reported that we could not expect any court assistance from your department, due to orders you had received from your superiors.

We immediately wanted to have you talk over the situation with Mr. Mitchell, to see what he could do, and when they got in touch with me and asked what I thought of subpoenaing Mr. Fehnel, I told them frankly that it looked to me as if that was the only thing we could do, if we were going to have the help of Mr. Fehnel in these particularly important cases. It may look odd to you that this subpoena was served, but really there was nothing else for us to do, and I could not see any other way out under the circumstances, after Mr. Mitchell had pointed out what it was going to mean to him to have Mr. Fehnel there. I do hope you will take this into consideration and that the assistance of Mr. Fehnel will be given us very cheerfully.

*W. J. McConnell*  
*Fehnel*  
*Jettford*

I can recognize the position of the insurance company in testifying in ordinary cases of this kind, but as I see it, these particular cases of ours at Charleston really come into a different category.

We carried Compensation and Health Insurance with your Company when these suits were first brought up at Charleston, and of course, under the policies, we were not covered against damage suits for Asbestosis.

*RA 115-7567*

The Metropolitan Insurance Co., nor no other insurance company in the United States, had any data that was worth very much on Asbestos Dust or Asbestosis, and naturally your Company wanted health statistics and information regarding Asbestos Dust on the lungs. Our Company was more than willing to cooperate with you, and we also induced Johns-Manville to cooperate, and your Company started with a Dust Survey of a number of the asbestos plants. When your appropriation for this work ran out, you requested that it be carried on until a new appropriation could be secured by your Company, and we did so. Later on, we hired a man, Mr. Binder, to work under your control, but at the expense of Johns-Manville and ourselves.

This all led us to believe that under the conditions, we would have your assistance in trying these unfair suits, which would eventually be a benefit to you, and also have considerable bearing on the Dust racket, about which so much has been published lately. I feel as if your Company has not taken into consideration all these various factors when turning down our request for Mr. Fehnel's presence at the trials in Charleston, Mr. Fehnel being the only man who has been following the details of the Asbestos Dust through all its various ramifications.

Naturally, if we could have foreseen the attitude the Metropolitan Insurance Co.'s Medical Department would take at this late date, we would have hired a specialist and he would have had all the data which your Company now has; and as you know, we have spent large sums to make the Charleston Plant an ideal one, with your assistance.

I do not believe that by Mr. Fehnel testifying at Charleston, it will establish a precedent, as it is hardly likely you will have this type of case come up again for many years, and I am also certain it is very questionable if you will get the same amount of assistance from any two companies that you have been getting from Johns-Manville and ourselves, and moreover, it was our intention to draw in other asbestos companies in this survey as soon as the time was right to bring them in, and this would mean a tremendous amount of information on Asbestos Dust and Asbestosis in the possession of the Metropolitan Insurance Co., who would be the only ones in the United States, so far as we know, having this information.

I have been trying to get in touch with my friend, Mr. James E. Kavanagh, Vice President of the Metropolitan Insurance Co., to endeavor to have him make an appointment with Mr. Eker, your President, so I can go over this matter with him very carefully and thoroughly, and I hope to be able to do so next Tuesday. Unfortunately, I shall be away the latter part of this week.

Very truly yours,

SS-G.

President