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Mr. J. M. Briley - Toledo

November 29, 1965

Mr. E. Edwards - Toledo

ATTACHED REPORT

DEPOSITION
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(Keller)

The report describes what little information we have about Dr. Selikoff and several fairly recent statements by Dr. Kenneth Smith, J-M Medical Director.

Our present concern is to find some way of preventing Dr. Selikoff from creating problems and affecting sales. A direct approach might be more damaging than helpful and I am only suggesting that we explore, at this time, all avenues open to us.

As I explain in the report, we know of no real evidence that permits Dr. Selikoff to take this positive position and this point could be used effectively in explaining our position to Mount Sinai Hospital officials. This certainly would force Dr. Selikoff to produce what information he has.

Neither Dr. Bishop nor I would want to have an issue made of our surprise and suspicions about Dr. Smith's statements. I mention them only because they might be indicative of at least some of the thinking in J-M.

F. E. Edwards

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1. Dr. Selikoff first came to our attention through the November, 1962 issue of the "Asbestos Worker" which carried a reprint of his talk before the International Convention of the Union in September, 1962. He reported a study of 632 insulation workers who entered the trade before 1943. According to Dr. Selikoff, this group showed a much higher death rate from cancer of the lungs, stomach, colon and rectum than average. He attributed this to exposure to asbestos fibers.

According to Dr. Siskind, President of the Union, Dr. Selikoff conducted his study without compensation, thus implying it was a humanitarian project.

In quote from the talk, "Take fibrous glass, for example. There is an appalling lack of sound scientific data on its effect on the lungs."

2. Although Dr. Selikoff's prime target was asbestos, it seemed evident that, sooner or later, he would probably condemn fibrous glass. Consequently, Dr. Bishop and I had a meeting with the medical directors of Johns-Manville and Pittsburgh Plate Glass to determine what action could be taken. No specific recommendations came from the meeting, but I learned the following from Johns-Manville people who claimed to have investigated:
 - a. Dr. Selikoff, an immigrant, was not approved to practice medicine in the United States after his first application. He was later accepted under a broad reciprocal agreement with a foreign country.
 - b. He gained stature in the profession by championing an electrician's medical cases.
 - c. He lost stature in the profession when he again supported a project and arrived at medical conclusions that his data did not justify.
 - d. His current attempt to get public and professional notice with attacks on asbestos are considered to be typical.
3. He was the motivating force in organizing a world-wide symposium in New York in October, 1964 on the subject, "The Biological Effects of Asbestos." The conference was sponsored by the New York Academy of Sciences.

On the first morning of the three days' conference, he attempted to release three press stories which implied that the majority of the participating authorities had supported his views and condemned

asbestos as a carcinogen. Before the articles could be released, the conference adopted a resolution to withdraw the statements on the basis that some of the specialists had seen the articles and were not ready to state that asbestos caused cancer.

4. Dr. Selikoff is not without support. He holds a responsible position with Mount Sinai Hospital and I understand that he holds, or has held, important posts on committees of the A.M.A.

He was successful in getting his article, "Asbestos Exposure and Neoplasia" published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

On the other hand, physicians who claim to know him well are usually critical of his medical ability and motives.

5. Dr. Selikoff's study of GJ insulation workers does not justify his conclusion that asbestos is a carcinogen. It is indicative, perhaps, but far from conclusive. This was borne out by the statements of many medical authorities during the New York symposium. Most of these men had studied the effects of asbestos exposure for years, yet they were reluctant to identify asbestos as the culprit.

6. To our knowledge, Dr. Selikoff has never conducted a scientific medical study of the effects of exposure to glass fibers. As a result, a letter of the type written by him to James Latta (copy to you) is entirely unjustified. It is based upon conjecture and opinion only with Dr. Harper and Dr. Schepers providing (so Dr. Selikoff says) any acceptable data.

The following comments about statements in his letter may be helpful:

- a. We have animal studies (inhalation, ingestion, cutaneous) made by Dr. Leroy S. Gardner (deceased), one-time Director and Research Pathologist of Sarnes Laboratory, and by Dr. Paul Gross, Research Pathologist, Industrial Hygiene Foundation, as well as a medical investigation of 1400 of our Kewark employees, all of whom have worked for the company for 10 to 25 plus years. Dr. Selikoff seems to dismiss these studies for some reason -- one being, perhaps, that no injurious effects of Fiberglas have been demonstrated.
- b. By condemning the use of fibrous glass as a "particulate matter" and a "potentially significant health hazard", he is assuming the position of arbiter of health hazards and standards for the country. The U. S. Public Health Service has not found it necessary to invoke any such restriction. Further, Dr. Selikoff is saying in effect, "If I believe that a substance is injurious, it must not be used industrially even though I have nothing conclusive on which to base my opinion."