

Plaintiffs' Westinghouse Exhibit P-West-169 -
Letter, Dated January 21, 1935, from E.R. Weidlein to Roger A. Hitchins, with
Attachments [7952-7955]

MELLON INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH



Enclosure
(4)
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Pittsburgh, Pa.

January 21, 1935.

Mr. Roger A. Hitchins, President,
American Refractories Institute,
No. 1608 Walnut Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.-

My dear Mr. Hitchins:

In accordance with your request as Chairman of the Organization Committee which was formed at the conference on dust problems held in Pittsburgh on January 15, we are giving you our ideas regarding the important problems involved and the type of organization that should be established. I am enclosing a plan for the study of dust problems and the organization chart.

If this work were to be centralized in Mellon Institute, it could be carried out as a part of our air hygiene research. The director appointed to handle the investigation would also be the head of the institution or organization which the industries would set up. In this way, the work could be carried out in a most confidential manner as to who was supporting the research and no one would know what industries or individuals were contributing to the fund. This would enable the organization to get soundly established, so that if later on it was desired to come out in the open this could be arranged.

Hoping that this gives you the information which you wish, I

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Sincerely yours,

(signed) E. R. Weidlein

Director

ERW-W
enclosures

PAUL L. CARR
JULY 1935
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his means of livelihood for a mess of pottage and the employer has lost a valued workman. Therein lies a tragedy equally as great from a social viewpoint as the poor unfortunate who has Silicosis and one which is a hundred times more widespread. I have no recriminations for the employee who succumbs to the runner's promise of riches. He is easy prey and many times is convinced in his own mind that he is a condemned man and probably will go through life with that fear ever before him, whereas if the truth were known, he would have been a useful, happy citizen who would have lived his normal expectancy.

The silicotic is rare as compared to the legion of men who have been driven from their jobs by shysters, and while we are dealing with the Silicosis problem, let us not overlook the collateral social problem which has arisen and let us try to find some way of protecting our employees from the parasites I refer to.

To repeat and emphasize a thought previously expressed herein, a consideration of the many aspects of the Silicosis problem clearly indicates that the interests therein of employees, employers and the general public proceed along parallel lines. The employers of the country can be counted upon to cooperate and whole-heartedly work with the Labor Department, with the Public Health Service, with The Bureau of Mines, with other pertinent public authorities, and with labor itself, to reach a solution of this problem along sane, constructive and effective lines.

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There is now no one place where there is available all information on all phases of the problem; and no concerted planning is being done either as to the present or future as to all of the many different phases.

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* activity for a permanent organization should be

1. An attempt to gather together in one place all of the existing facts concerning the subject of the Industrial Dust Problem.
2. A study of these facts and an attempt to evaluate them.
3. A report based on this study and a recommendation as to the future action.
4. The cost.

[illegible]

tion Committee dated February 6th, 1935. Briefly, it was to the effect that for an overall sum of \$25,000.00 Mellon Institute will (a) gather all the available facts and (b) study and evaluate them and (c) submit a definite report and recommendation.

Naturally Mellon Institute will expect the co-operation of everyone interested in the problem in the accomplishment of its objective and any unexpended monies can either be refunded or can be used in carrying out a future program.

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Invitations to the Symposium on the Industrial Dust Problem were sent to nearly one hundred Trade Associations and/or Code Authorities.

Nearly two hundred persons attended the Symposium at Pittsburgh on January 15th, 1935.

The report of the Temporary Organization Committee was sent on February 6th, 1935, to all those originally invited and to all those who attended, and copies of the report have since been sent to a considerable number of other Trade Associations and individual companies.

It was the thought of the Temporary Organization Committee that if the \$25,000.00 were to be underwritten pro rata by fifty or more Trade Associations or individual companies, the amount of each subscription would not exceed \$500.00 and it would be less as the number of subscribers should exceed fifty. Thus would be provided a nucleus of Trade Associations or individual companies who would be actively interested in the problem, and who could then form themselves into a permanent organization which would already have the assurance of a definite amount of available money.

The Temporary Organization Committee has planned as soon as the requisite number of fifty contributors has been assured, - to call a meeting of all contributors asking each of them to designate one individual who will have full power of representation in the formation of a permanent organization.

With the formation of a Permanent Organization, - the Temporary Organization Committee will have completed its duties.

The Permanent Organization - when formed of the contributors - will select its own officers and will determine its own program and objectives, and it will be the duty of the contributors to carry out the program which will be planned. There will be no outside interference in the carrying out of the program, and the organization will be free to deal with all problems.

No commitments of any kind have been made by the Temporary Organization Committee as to the future policies or program of a permanent organization if and when one is formed, except that it has been arranged so that contributions and membership can become known or can remain unknown as may be elected by the individual contributor.

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In conclusion -

A large number of people have said that they believe that there should be a central clearing house, - or co-ordinating body - to represent all industry in connection with the industrial dust problem.

A Symposium has been held in Pittsburgh on January 15th, 1935.

A Temporary Organization Committee was elected to prepare a plan and recommendation as to a permanent organization.

This plan has been prepared and submitted (on February 5th, 1935).

Whether a permanent organization shall be formed, and how it shall be formed, and what shall be its program is now in the hands of those to whom this "narrative" is being sent.

Roger A. Eitchins
As Chairman -
Temporary Organization Committee.