

COPY

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA, INC.

4400 FIFTH AVENUE

PITTSBURGH 13, PA.

May 10, 1948

Mr. Charles W. Green
Strang, Bodine, Wright and Combs
800 Powers Building
Rochester 4, New York

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
GAR. 17

Dear Mr. Green:

I have read over the material included in your letter of April 29 and enclosures relative to the law suit brought against the Garlock Packing Company, and trust the following comments may be helpful:

The attempt to avoid the provisions of the State compensation act seems to leave the whole matter in a state of considerable confusion.

Among the alleged environmental conditions, reference is made to asbestos fumes, rayon excreta and cotton contamination, as well as noxious gases, etc., resulting from the heating of these materials. The first three substances can only mean asbestos, rayon, and cotton dust; otherwise, the terms are completely meaningless to us. We have no conception of what is meant by gases and fumes resulting from heating of these materials. We know of no process in the spinning, twisting weaving department in which these materials are heated.

Reference to humidity, drafts, temperature, etc., are on the other hand tangible factors. As we see it from the lay viewpoint, argument might boil down to the question whether these alleged conditions could lead to tuberculosis, fibrosis, and diseases of the circulatory system. This obviously calls for medical testimony and you should have no difficulty in finding a reputable medical witness to testify on this subject. We believe he would hold that there is no known connection between these environmental factors and the diseases mentioned.

On the other hand, the disease conditions described are frequently characteristic of asbestosis according to medical literature on that subject.

None of the staff of this organization is permitted to testify in suits of this nature, even for member companies. You should have no difficulty however, in obtaining such technical assistance in this connection. I should think the requirements would be for medical testimony rather than engineering. If you require any advice as to available medical witnesses, perhaps we can aid you in this regard.

DEPOSITION
EXHIBIT

Plaintiffs
8

Very truly yours

W.C.L. Hanson
Head Engineer

WCLH:d

cc: Mr. George L. Abbott

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

WV-08581

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

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