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Date: 1/26/33
Title: Letter
Author: Lanza
Receiver: Cummings
Comments:
"As you point out, there is a lot to be said on the mine operators' side of the question. When the original agreement was made between the Bureau of Mines, the Metropolitan, and the operatora, conditions were, as you know, far different from what they are now. None of us could have foreseen this plague of damage suits all over the country which have scared employers out of thair wits and for good reason. Your position in this regard is identical with mine with reference to the asbestosis study. Here we have a large size of material, representing a lot of time, energy, and money, which were put into a nation wide study of asbestosis and which we cannot print. I think we simply have to recognize that in these troubled times, we have to accept a certain amount of disappointment and setback."

January 28, 1948

Mr. Donald E. Cummings, Assistant Director,
Saranac Laboratory for the Study of Tuberculosis,
Post Office Box 581,
Saranac Lake, N. Y.

Dear Don:

I have your letter of the 26th with the carbon of Burbaugh's letter to you and I do not blame you for being disturbed. Have you sent a similar communication to Sayers? If not, I think it would be well to do so. Possibly Sayers and I can put our heads together and try to do something.

As you point out, there is a lot to be said on the other operators' side of the question. When the original agreement was made between the Bureau of Mines, the Metropolitan, and the operators, conditions were, as you know, far different from what they are now. Some of us could have forecast this plague of damage suits over the country which have scared employers out of their wits and for good reasons. Your problem in this regard is identical with mine with reference to the underground study. Here we have a large mine of material, requiring a lot of time, energy, and money, which were put into a certain plan of understanding and which we cannot point. I think we simply have to recognize that in these troubled times, we have to accept a certain amount of disappointments and we must. After all, with conditions as abnormal as they are now, we have no reason to expect that we are not going to be affected.

The Public Health Service in publishing their reports were unfortunate to conceal the identity of the plants studied by referring to them simply as, for instance, "a steel plant on the Atlantic Seaboard" or "the Great Lakes region." so that the establishment could not be identified except by those personally concerned in the study. I wonder if this method of presentation is out of the question with respect to your work. Of course, if the vital statistics cannot be identified, they will undoubtedly lose a part of their force. You might mention this to Sayers if you think it worth while.

Sayers, incidentally, has replaced Leake who is out of the picture. I believe there will be a very considerable building up of the industrial hygiene activities of the Public Health Service from now on. At any rate, I shall drop Sayers a line to see if we cannot get together at an early date for the purpose of bringing some pressure to bear on the people in Pittsburgh.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

A. J. Lanza, M.D.
Associate Medical Director

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