

CEMENT ASBESTOS PRODUCTS COMPANY

Birmingham, Alabama

February 25, 1974

TO: Mr. W. R. Bond
Mr. S. D. Weaver

FROM: Mr. W. H. Beasley

SUBJECT: AIA Meeting February 21, 1974 - New York

The meeting was very good -

After preliminaries, Edmund Fenner gave a report on the activities of the Standards and Technical Committee - mainly they are working on Work Practices for the various types of operations to present to OSHA as requested. They hope to have the report ready to review by the Directors this Spring. He thinks the emphasis of the New Standard for Asbestos that OSHA is working on will be on Work Practices with less emphasis on monitoring and no change in fiber levels beyond 2.

Mr. Eugene Leff reviewed some legal cases, primarily the Tyler, Texas - Pittsburg Corning case. The suit is for 100 million dollars against all those involved all the way back to the Asbestos suppliers. Their case is based on the claim that they were not warned of the imminent dangers of asbestos by Pittsburg Corning, North American Asbestos, Asbestos Textile Institute, etc. (We must look at the purchase of information booklets to properly establish the fact we have properly made all employees aware of the potential hazards.)

Dr. L. H. Murphy made a report of studies AIA has him working on; they were interesting but nothing new to report to us.

The most interesting and informative session, of course, was Dr. Irving Selikoff's slide presentation (no printed report or speech furnished). It was almost three hours long and he held the attention of all present (about 50 people). I was very impressed by him and his sincerity and dedication to his studies. I had a misconception of his motives and activities before this meeting. I talked to him, personally, during lunch and I believe his motives are aboveboard. We all know about his stand and the things he has published, which seem to be substantiated, but the importance he placed on two or three items stuck in my mind:

Mr. W. R. Bond
Mr. S. D. Weaver
AIA Meeting February 21, 1974 - New York
Page -2-

1. Industry didn't know what problems excessive exposure would cause years ago, and he didn't blame them - but now they do and must accept the responsibility for the future.
2. The importance of Smoking as a factor in conjunction with asbestos and resulting cancer (high incidence with smoking-low to non-smokers).
3. We had been told, heretofore, it probably takes years of heavy exposure to cause problems, but he presented studies that indicated a person could have heavy exposure for as little as six weeks and 25 to 30 years later problems would occur.

He presented pictures of areas that exist in plants today that are very hazardous as exposure is made. Some of them reminded me of some conditions we have at both plants, especially at Ragland. (Kollergang opening, Asbestos Silo, machining scraps and dust, etc.).

In closing this report, I'll state that everyone was in agreement that there wasn't any known situations that existed in the way of asbestos control that could not be corrected. In my opinion, we must make our parent companies aware of the magnitude and urgency of this task and get some tremendous progress made in this direction this year.



WHB:mf

mf 2/25/74

GERALD FOX

Gerald,

Please call me re the attached.

Thanks,

Martha