

Castleman File: US Gypsum

w/c = with cover letter or memo If DATE = 0, undated

CD-ROM Document #:USG 153 Month/Year 1968

- ☐ published article from trade journal
- ☐ published advertisement from trade journal
- ☐ government inspection results
- ☐ unpublished or internal report
- ☐ unpublished presentation from conference
- ☐ newspaper article
- ☐ letter ☒ memorandum
- ☐ industry warning labels
- ☐ industry sales literature
- ☐ industry recommended practices
- ☐ meeting agenda ☐ minutes ☐ attendee list
- ☐ legal filing of defense
- ☐ legal filing of plaintiff
- ☐ BC notes

USG-88-1

002841

cc: J. N. Walker

CONFIDENTIAL

Int'l

TO: C. F. Lehmann
FROM: B. W. Niss
SUBJECT: Asbestosis

October 11, 1968

Although the article beginning on page 117 of The New Yorker for Oct. 12 contains some obvious inaccuracies, it is sure to focus attention on the alleged or real health hazards relating to asbestos. As you know this is a very controversial subject, which has been simmering for a long time.

I think the most important point brought out in this article is that asbestos may not be so hazardous per se, but that it does tend to absorb and concentrate toxic substances ingested or inhaled. The evidence seems conclusive that the hazards of cigarette smoking are enormously intensified if there is also exposure to asbestos.

Several of the products we manufacture and sell (e.g., joint compound, siding, fireproofing, plaster) are generically implicated in this article. With this kind of publicity in an influential national magazine, it is imperative to make sure that we are taking all reasonable steps to discern and avoid hazardous situations, not only as a matter of ethical responsibility but to avoid direct or indirect liability. Perhaps Mr. Krug would wish to know of this publication, if he hasn't already seen it.

BWN:jmw

Enc.

BWN

As you no doubt know we handle many varieties of asbestos and asbestos products here in the Lab.

Please return magazine eventually

CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT
Exhibits:
P 77/ 11
Case No. 85-0122-CV-W-8-6

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UNITED STATES GYPSUM COMPANY

