

February 14, 1935 -PY.CV.

Mr. Roger A. Mitchins
Room 900, 1608 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



SUBJECT: Coordinating Agency for
Dust Investigation

Dear Mr. Mitchins:

I have received your letter of February 6 with six inclosures pertinent to the Dust Symposium at Pittsburgh, the Temporary Organization Committee on Industrial Dust Problems, and Tentative Program of Initial Activities. I have read these with interest and am pleased to note that you are making progress in your endeavor to formulate means whereby industry may be kept informed on problems of dust diseases and also whereby the industrial health and legal hazards may be mitigated.

I have followed this problem rather closely for a number of years and am fully aware of its magnitude and importance to both workmen and industry. The Bureau of Mines has always considered dust diseases as an outstanding health problem in the mineral industries and although our funds for doing such work have been rather limited we have managed to make a number of investigations and have done work on practically all phases of the problem. We have recessed a great deal of our health work but I have managed to continue investigation and development of respirators and also a small amount of work on methods for making dust studies and determinations of dust in air. For the past several months, however, I have been endeavoring to resume the work and hope that the present Congress might be kind enough to take interest in our proposals and provide some funds.

I note that one of your inclosures relates to contributions for carrying on the work your committee proposes. I think the total sum estimated for the initial activities is modest and you should have no difficulty in raising it. I have often wondered why industry and the insurance companies, either alone or combined, had not set up many times this sum annually for work on dust problems. It is, of course, necessary to tell you that the Bureau of Mines does not have any funds which it can expend in this matter. It is illegal to make contributions of any kind unless specifically authorized by Congress. Accordingly, all we can contribute is our sympathy, good wishes, and any service or advice which we can give from our fund of information on the investigations we may make from time to time.

Very truly yours,

cc Mr. Yieldner
cc file

William P. Yant, Supervising Engineer