

Manufacturing Chemists' Association, Inc.

(FOUNDED 1872)

1625 EYE STREET, N. W.

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

MINUTES OF MEETING PLASTICS COMMITTEE New York City, Manhattan Club December 16, 1957

PRESENT:

Messrs. R. K. Mueller, Monsanto Chemical Company
Bjorn Andersen, Celanese Corporation of America
D. S. Frederick, Rohm & Haas Company
R. A. Hoekelman, American Cyanamid Company
H. R. Thies, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
R. K. Turner, Bakelite Company (Luncheon Only)
J. D. Wright, Canadian Industries Limited
C. W. Blount, Bakelite Company
R. L. Cammann, Allied Chemical & Dye Corp. (For T. J. Kinsella)
E. S. Ebers, United States Rubber Co. (For G. R. Vila)
H. W. Mohrman, Monsanto Chemical Company
W. H. Salzenberg, E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.
B. J. C. van der Hoeven, Koppers Company, Inc.
R. C. Weigel, E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.
F. H. Carman, MCA Staff

ABSENT:

Messrs. C. B. Branch, The Dow Chemical Company
A. R. Marusi, The Borden Company
George Wash, Phillips Chemical Company

BUILDING PROGRAM

As directed in the last meeting, a one-page progress report (a condensation of that circulated to this Committee) of the MCA Plastics in Building Program was supplied Chairman R. K. Mueller and distributed by him to the SPI Board in their meeting October 31. He had nothing further to report at this time.

Details of a plastics in building program have now been considered and approved by the Plastics in Building and Code Committee and copies sent to the group. Briefly, this includes continued work with building code authorities, and an effort to initiate better communication and understanding between the plastics and the building industries. To achieve the latter, a

series of technical pamphlets, and a meeting of plastics industry representatives to hear building industry men describe their practices and attitudes of their industry are being considered. No formal program is yet ready for presentation.

Work is being continued on flammable testing and close liaison is being maintained with fire protection groups as well as with the SPI. Because of recent actions by the Building Officials Conference of America (BOCA) interpreting their existing code to permit the use of plastics, it was agreed with the SPI that the changes previously recommended for change in their code should be withdrawn.

REPORT ON FINANCIAL PACKAGE

A report showing receipts to date together with expenditures for the first six months of the fiscal year was submitted.

Three companies had not yet contributed to the Plastics Financial Package for the current year; the Committee recommended they be approached again by the Secretary to determine if they want to continue participation in these programs.

PLASTICS RESEARCH

Mr. H. W. Mohrman, Chairman of the Technical Subcommittee, was then asked to report the recommendations resulting from a thorough review of the MIT research project on November 5, 1957.

The project on fundamental research, sponsored by the Plastics Group since December 1945, is currently financed at a rate of \$25,000 a year with a total financing through June 30, 1957 of \$303,773.65. Mr. Mohrman's report, which is explained in detail in the Liaison Subcommittee report to the Technical Group on November 5, 1957 (see Appendix), emphasized that the Technical Committee has concluded that the MIT research project has been successful in attaining the stated objectives and that it would be proper now to "taper" off the financial support at MIT, making such funds available to other schools or comparable institutions for similar work.

Following discussion, it was the consensus that appropriation for such funds by the Plastics Group is now taking on a new aspect in that it appeared to be stressing the educational side. Comment was made that it might be appropriate to review such financing for plastics research now being provided by member companies on an individual basis.

The recommendation that MCA re-examine the need for continuing to put all its "seed money" into substantial research at MIT was discussed at length, it being stressed that the Technical Group felt that limited financing, \$10,000 probably tapering to \$5,000, should be continued at MIT in order to maintain contacts with that Institution. On the recommendation that a committee be established to explore possibilities of starting new cells of plastic research at other Institutions with continuing some support to the MIT Plastics Laboratory, a motion was made and duly seconded that the Technical Subcommittee, through appropriate committees as recommended in its last meeting, be authorized to taper off support at MIT, in accordance with the best judgment of that group, from \$25,000 to a lesser amount over

riod of time deemed appropriate. This was passed unanimously.

Also, on motion duly seconded, the Technical Subcommittee was authorized to contact other Institutions in the U. S. A. and Canada to determine what type of program, along the lines of establishing new cells on plastics research, could be established. This was passed unanimously.

So that the Committee would be better advised of the extent of private investment in such research in schools, etc., it was unanimously recommended by the Plastics Committee that MCA canvass its membership on a confidential basis to determine how much is being expended on these research grants at this time.

SOCIETY OF THE PLASTICS ENGINEERS -- PLASTICS INSTITUTE

Since the last Committee meeting, the Secretary has met informally with officers of the SPE to become better advised of their plans to set up a Plastics Institute and recently was an observer in a meeting of the SPE Institute Committee. A listing of the Society's Plastics Institute Committee and certain officers was given those present.

The SPE is investigating the feasibility of setting up an Institute, along the lines of similar undertakings by industries here and abroad; it would be devoted mainly to fundamental research, education, and dissemination of information in the plastics field. No plans have been finalized; however, it appears that they would establish such an Institute in connection with a college or university so that postgraduate work could be undertaken. The SPE Group is now considering location and affiliation, methods of financing and support that could be obtained, and general organization for direction of the work. It appears that financial support would be expected largely from material suppliers and fabricators, and perhaps lesser amounts from equipment manufacturers and consuming industries. Methods of assessment have not been worked out.

No formal request for support or endorsement has been made to MCA, but this could be forthcoming in the future. It was the consensus that MCA at this time could neither take a position in favor of or in opposition to such an undertaking. It is understood the Washington office will consider what policy could be taken on such a matter.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Plastics Committee is tentatively scheduled for February 4 at the Manhattan Club.

Respectfully submitted,

F. H. Carman

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cc: Marx Leva

REC:cms
Enc.

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