MINUTES OF MEETING
PLASTICS COMMITTEE
International Inn, Washington, D. C.
April 2, 1963

PRESENT:
Messrs. W. H. Salzenberg (Chairman), E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.
Henry Avery, Pittsburgh Chemical Company
J. T. Castles, General Electric Company
J. H. Childs, Du Pont of Canada
Emery N. Cleaves, Celanese Chemical Co.
D. S. Frederick, Rohm & Haas Company
Donald M. Joseph, CIBA Products Company
T. J. Kinsella, Allied Chemical Corp.
Charles S. Stryker (for H. W. Mason, Jr.),
Reichhold Chemicals, Inc.
P. H. Carman, MCA
William Demarest, MCA

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 A.M. by Chairman Walter Salzenberg.

Building Standards Survey

T. J. Kinsella reported that his subcommittee had met that morning with Messrs. White and Gibbons of Daniel Yankelovich, Inc. The survey has now reached the half-way point, but there are still important people to be interviewed and no definite trend in the findings is yet available. They had up to 70 interviews and 50 additional are planned. Copies of a facts sheet being used by interviewers, usually after the contact, were distributed to the Committee (copy enclosed with these minutes). They have not yet contacted SPI officers and those interested in the San Francisco code matters.

The May 1 date for a final report is still good. Generally, most contacts feel that standards are needed, but there is still confusion about the money that may be required for a standards program and whether or not certification and labeling are required.
During discussion of the general activities of the consultants, Emery Cleaves voiced the opinion that, in his experience, an active program must be given and the sponsor should insist that certain persons be contacted in their interviews.

Chairman Kinsella emphasized that his committee is satisfied with progress of the survey, is pleased that the consultants declined to take a firm position at this time on the question being studied, and that a meaningful report should be available for the next Committee meeting. His subcommittee is planning to meet April 26 with the consultants.

A meeting of the Plastics in Building Subcommittee is being scheduled prior to the next Committee meeting and at a time when the Yankelovich report can be reviewed. It is anticipated representatives of that Subcommittee will subsequently meet with the Plastics Committee to present their comments and recommendations.

Underwriters' Projects

The smoke project is moving very satisfactorily. Tests are in progress, those to date being mainly on various plastic materials (a tabulation of tests on 12 to 15 having been completed), and it is anticipated some tests on other building materials will be conducted at MCA expense in the immediate future. The equipment has been set up with exit signs and photo recordings being made of smoke developed in the regular Tunnel Test without having altered test procedures to date.

Smoke density ratings on the basis of Ringelmann numbers are being recorded. W. Demarest reported (1) the progress that has been made in building up confidence of the UL in the member representatives on the Advisory Committee for all three UL projects, (2) that the Laboratories are close to the responsible officials in San Francisco, and progress is being made in behalf of the industry, and (3) that one member of the committee (W. J. Sauber of Dow) gave an extended lecture to Underwriters' personnel on flammability of plastic materials. The new Chairman of the Advisory Committee, replacing C. H. Adams, is Dr. R. B. Akin of du Pont.

Completion of UL's final report on the appliance study is hoped for by early May and a meeting of the committee is tentatively scheduled for May 16.

The Abstract and Summary of the extensive report on the toxicity of combustion products project is still being edited by UL.

Principles Relating to Committees

The Board Resolution concerning MCA's Committees had been forwarded to all Committee members. It was the general consensus that the Plastics Committee's structure and general
method of operations were consistent with these principles. For further information, excerpts from the report of the MCA Policy Study Committee were reported on briefly by the Secretary and a copy is enclosed with these minutes.

Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee, composed of J. T. Castles, Chairman, Donald M. Joseph and Henry Avery, was appointed to nominate five new Committee members. They were asked to have a report ready for consideration by the Committee in the May 2 meeting.

The Secretary advised that H. R. Dinges of Spencer Chemical Co. had been assigned new duties and, no longer being in the Plastics Division, had resigned from the Committee.

Financial Package

The Secretary reported that budgeted activities were running within the forecast and there would be a modest surplus, since it appeared the Underwriters' smoke project was not moving as fast as anticipated. Funds for the SPE Engineering Handbook had not been required during the fiscal year (the money was diverted to the building standards survey); accordingly, $10,000 for that project and $15,000 for a new fundamental research project, as agreed upon in a previous meeting, are to be included in next year's Package. At this time, no estimates are possible on what may be required for building standards, and it was agreed that this must await the Yankelovich report before budgeting for the next fiscal year on this part of the plastics program could be established.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for 10:00 A.M. at Springfield, N. J., May 2, 1963.

The Committee was joined at luncheon by MCA President, General J. E. Hull; Assistant to the President, General George S. Decker; and General Counsel, Lloyd Symington.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

F. R. Carman
Committee Secretary

FRC:amm
Enclosures
April 10, 1963

cc: Mr. Lloyd Symington
TRADE ASSOCIATIONS

History of adoption of standards program and documentation of all major changes in scope (broader or narrower).

Initial weaknesses of program.

Present standards and certification program.

Extent of industry participation

Organizational set-up.
Nature of standards (i.e., how tests are devised, type of tests used to establish standards, use of other institutions' established tests--American Standard Association, A.S.T.M., SAE, etc., extent of physical facilities used for testing).

Attitudes toward and use of the program on the part of:

* Manufacturers

*Distributors, retailers, etc.

*Users or consumers
Nature of standards (i.e., how tests are devised, type of tests used to establish standards, use of other institutions' established tests--American Standard Association, A.S.T.M., SAE, etc., extent of physical facilities used for testing).

Attitudes toward and use of the program on the part of:

Manufacturers

Distributors, retailers, etc.

Sers or consumers
Effect of the program on industry sales.

Future plans for the program.
BASIC OBJECTIVES OF MCA

1. **Saving Money** - To conduct or sponsor lawful activities designed to achieve worthwhile savings to Association members where individual company efforts cannot effectively accomplish the desired result.

   Background comment: Evidently, if by a certain expenditure of effort by, or under the auspices of, the Association, the member companies can make worthwhile savings, greater than they could make on their own, the pursuit of these is a desirable objective. There is ample evidence that substantial savings are in fact being made in this way.

2. **Safety and Environment** - To provide leadership and guidance and undertake programs to improve the chemical industry's service to the public by developing and promoting safe practices in the manufacture, transportation, handling, and use of chemicals and chemical products which will benefit both the chemical industry and the community.

   Background comment: The need to work for safety and the avoidance of pollution in the manufacture and transportation of chemicals and of products made with chemicals has long been plain. Moreover, with the increasing output of chemical substances, together with the widening spread of uses and proliferation of products, we find that the appropriateness of introducing many of these into the environment is questioned. While there is little doubt that these concerns often tend to be exaggerated, it is clearly in the interests of the industry to see that the benefits provided by our products are offset by the minimum deleterious side effects to man and his environment.

3. **Public Affairs** - To provide leadership in developing and maintaining a clear and favorable image of the chemical industry and the parts played in our national, state, and local economy; and in appropriate, timely and effective manner make known the accomplishments, views and recommendations of the industry to those outside the industry, whose actions, decisions and actions affect the industry.

   Background comment: The previous two objectives cover mainly what are usually referred to as the technical activities of the Association, being the things that the Association does to assist the industry in actual operations. The third objective deals broadly with the field
would ease somewhat the pressure for Board membership, and it cannot but a-

give many directors a greater participation in Association affairs.

Following on from (d) we believe that there is also a further need in con-

tact between the committees and the member companies. Particularly a-

for member companies not represented on the Board, it is most difficult to a-

sorb a real feeling for what goes into these programs.

We recommend that the Association institute a meeting, of about one

day's duration to be held once a year, attendance at which would be limited

even though the contact between the committees and the member companies, and representatives of the a-

rious committees. The purpose of this meeting would be to enable the h-

ponsible executives from member companies to hear from the committees a-
garding their programs and accomplishments. By limiting attendance as a-

commended, the groups should be small enough to make question-and-answer aimed fruitful.

In order to provide coordination, policy guidance, and unity of pur-

where such is required, the MCA staff should meet once a year with a-

mittee chairmen as a group. We believe that committees, after consultation with the staff, should a-
in the general ground rules, and subject to Board approval) determine a-

ize and select their members. Committees should exercise diligence t-

sure that qualified members are chosen to serve, and should initiate a-

osals to eliminate people who do not carry their share of the work.

There is a desire on the part of certain committees to be informed, a-
promptly as possible by the staff, of state and local legislative activ-

es that appear to be of significance in relation to their programs. It a-

ears reasonable to us that this be done.

Committee service, as we inferred earlier, is often a substantial a-

tribution and something for which members certainly deserve some appro-

ate recognition. Several suggestions were passed on to the management a-

ow this might be done, and we hope that the Association will choose a-

urse the thought.

Whether or not MCA as a whole continues to set up Policy Study com-

ties such as this, the review of committees, in some form such as a-

ed here, should be carried on at regular intervals, say every two or a-

years, to see whether an adequate and necessary function is being a-

ormed and whether adequate staff servicing is being provided.
A review of the nature of the work of the various committees shows that most of them engage in activities that involve more than one of MCA's main organizational branches. While it is usually true that the committees that are working on the "Save Money" objective (for instance Mechanical Technical, Plastics, Research, Traffic, etc.) fall naturally within the "technical" branch of the MCA organization, and can pursue their work with a minimum of involvement with such things as Public or Government Relations, this is usually not so when we come to committees pursuing the "Environmental" objective (for example Air and Water Pollution, Food Additives, LAPI, Safety, etc.). These latter committees deal with subjects that can be quite technical in content, yet of considerable interest to Government Relations, Public Relations, or both. The same is often true, of course, for committees working on the "Public Affairs" objective (for example International Trade, Public Relations, Tax Policy, Patent, etc.).

As a result of this, it is apparent that while most MCA committees are "functional" from the committee point of view, they tend to be multifunctional when viewed from the standpoint of the functional divisions of the MCA staff organization. In other words, most of the committees do not fit neatly within the sphere of responsibility of any one of MCA's organizational branches.

It would thus seem likely to be a mistake if one tends to think of a committee as "belonging" to some branch or another of the MCA organization (for instance the branch in which the committee's staff secretary works). This might lead on to the assumption that this branch of the organization should be responsible for all the committee's doings, which cannot really be so, as explained above. Actually, in general, committees "belong" to MCA as a whole, rather than to its departments, and the staff secretary when serving a certain committee, pretty much has to wear a non-departmental hat for the time, and represent whatever branch of the MCA organization is appropriate to the subject matter.

We mention all this not with the idea that there is anything very about it, but because multifunctional problems of this sort are often quite difficult ones, while the resultant need for coordination can be a formidable consumer of time. The organization has already been hard at work to develop flexible practices and attitudes in dealing with this sort of problem, and our committee endorses these efforts wholeheartedly.

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February 20, 1963