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E. K. CARVER
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October 29, 1953

The Honorable W. Sterling Cole
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

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Dear Mr. Cole:

Thank you for your visit of last week and your kind interest in the problems of the photographic industry brought about by the testing and use of nuclear weapons.

Several years ago the National Association of Photographic Manufacturers established a Committee on Radioactivity. Dr. E. K. Carver of Eastman Kodak is chairman. The other members are:

Dr. E. G. Middleton	duPont
Dr. Julian Webb	Eastman Kodak (Technical Advisor)
M. Insalco	Haloid
H. W. Morreall, Jr.	Ansco

The AEC has worked cooperatively with this committee, particularly the Health and Safety Division, New York Operations Office. The industry has consistently sought to avoid publicity because it is felt that no useful purpose would be served by it.

As discussed with you last week, the photographic problem is primarily due to small air-borne and/or water-borne radioactive particles finding their way into close proximity to the sensitized product. The most sensitive to contamination are the paper raw stock, packaging and interleaving materials because of the large quantities of water used in their manufacture. Of course, it is possible that any raw material or manufacturer's product might be similarly contaminated.

On several occasions, some recently, Ansco has received contaminated raw materials. In all cases they have been paper products. Generally, our suppliers have indicated that they are not prepared to assume any liability for this type material defect and although they are cooperative in attempting to avoid contamination, the final problem and economic loss is Ansco's.

Ansco personnel are working closely with several groups so that all the information obtainable is acted upon for the best interests of the industry and the Nation. In addition to the aforementioned NAPM Committee on Radioactivity, members of our organization are actively working with NPA and the

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military, providing, among other things, information bearing on the advisability of stockpiling photographic materials. Stockpiling itself must be considered, both as it concerns loss of manufacturing facilities and contamination of raw materials. Against the former only finished goods could be stockpiled, whereas raw material stockpiling might suffice for the latter.

To date the photographic manufacturers have pooled their knowledge of the radioactive contamination problem. It is conceivable that under some circumstances it might be necessary to pool facilities and supplies. The small users may find it economically impossible to provide themselves with contamination-protected raw material sources, whereas the larger manufacturers may better afford these additional costs.

In summary, then, the radioactive problems before the photographic industry can be minimized by:

(1) Extraordinary water and air purification, not only in the manufacturing areas, but also in raw material manufacturing areas.

(2) Scheduling critical raw material manufacture during periods of low radioactive contamination. This is being partially achieved at present by advance information from the AEC concerning United States' tests. It is failing when contamination comes from outside the United States, although possibly the AEC could supply the industry with some warning before the air-borne contamination actually reached eastern United States.

(3) Stockpiling of critical raw materials will effectively protect the industry for limited periods of time. This becomes less effective as air-borne contamination becomes more nearly continuous.

I hope that this information may be of some use to you in your work as Chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy.

Respectfully,

JAMES FORRESTAL

James Forrestal
Vice President

cc: Dr. E. K. Carver, Eastman Kodak Co.
" " " " , for forwarding to AEC
Mr. H. W. Morreall, Jr.

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