

Canada

RESTRICTED

Note for File

Telephone Conversation with R.M. Gibb and R.S. Wade

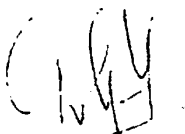
25th April, 1980

1. Gibb and Wade telephoned me during the afternoon of Friday, 25th April, to report that they had received an approach from the Director of Development of the Dept. of Chemistry of St. Francois Xavier College, a small college in the Maritimes, offering to make a confidential disclosure which might be of interest to the tobacco industry and, particularly, I.T.L. Wade had tape-recorded the conversation and had made a transcript, which Gibb read fairly rapidly.
2. Chemists at St. Francois Xavier had synthesised the material claimed to be the carcinogen in hardwood responsible for carcinoma of the nasopharyngeal duct in woodworkers in the hardwood industry. They were looking for similar effects among others who may be exposed to this type of material. Mutagenicity studies had been arranged.
3. Recently, they had noticed a report of a similar compound at the level of 50 ppm in a hot water extract of tobacco, and believed that by a relatively simple biochemical change, the material from tobacco extract could be converted into the alleged hardwood carcinogen.
4. Although analysis was tedious, they were prepared to measure this component in a number of different tobacco samples, so as to minimise or perhaps eliminate this component.
5. They believed that the conditions of hot water extraction were akin to the passage of steam through a tobacco bed and therefore considered entrainment of the precursor of the alleged carcinogen in smoke was a possibility. If so, its removal by filtration or selective filtration was a possibility.
6. Discussion
 - a) I suggested to Gibb and Wade that the doctrine of "due diligence" indicated that they should at least explore the subject further with the College.

109841765

b) Before going further, they should get the College representatives to sign a Confidential Disclosure, which should be worded so as to permit ITL to disclose to their associates, i.e. BAT (this had not occurred to them), and possibly to the Canadian industry, i.e. CTMC. It was unlikely that, if there was substance in the idea, it would remain a commercial secret, but would be shared with the Industry.

c) Meanwhile, GR&DC would carry out a survey of the literature on hardwood carcinogens and similar substances in tobacco extract in an attempt to second guess the chemists at St. Fracois Xavier College.



D. G. FELTON

cc: Dr. L.C.F. Blackman ^{LB}
Mr. A.L. Heard/Dr. C.I. Ayres

DGF/AIB/5.1.1
28th April, 1980

109841766