

DR. L.C.F. BLACKMAN
G.R. & D.C. SOUTHAMPTON

DR. BLACKMAN'S VISIT TO U.S.A. and CANADA.

The following comments on "Some Technical Points from Visit to B & W and I.T.L." may be useful.

First, in general the points are all attributed to others except Product Development (1) and (5).

Product Development:

(1) This is a funny way to put it! B.A.T in fact has been strong in smoke chemistry but has declined unlike, for example, Reynolds (who have now adopted the B.A.T approach) to get into the bottomless pit of organic chemical study of an unlimited number of compounds for no sensible reason.

Organic chemistry of flavours - yes, this is true. Until Reynolds sold out their flavour interest they were studying the chemistry of flavours. However, before accepting some such aim as "to be strong in flavour chemistry", I would need at least an attempt at some sort of rationale. Bill Reid has provided the basis in one area.

(5) Calls for no comment - the organisation is as stated.

Biological Testing:

(1) This has always been our objective - the Ames test, however, could be misleading. Our Canadian friends have a vested interest in the Ames test for mutagenicity. It is useful as one test in a screen.

(2) NCI are not world experts. However, we are - from T.R.C. days - and we must select another strain taking various factors into account - but there must be a cross-over experiment.

(3) We used to have a group biological research committee. We all agreed the Group R. & D. Conference is now sufficient for this purpose.

Primary Processing:

(1) I believe we need a research programme. The so-called experience-based forum is fine for experience-based work. R.&D. is supposed to use science and if it does not I believe we could do the work cheaper elsewhere.

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(2) Agreed.

(3) Why is it important to do research on case leaf drying? Do we agree?

(4) I thought we had rejected the B. & W. claims for small strip by-pass? But surely this is hardly of Group wide importance. If it is we ought to look at the whole concept properly.

Expanded Tobacco:

(1) I.T.L. could well give up interest. For nearly 20 years they have had available techniques giving more f.p.i. than they need.

(2) B. & W. have always been going for a single big plant.

(3) I would like to know who criticises B.A.T for "trailing behind competition". While we cannot invent everything, and for Reynolds G.13 was a necessity, we certainly led on f.p.i. That we have anything to catch up in the use of expanded tobacco in products is an idea being spread around - I doubt if it's true.

(4) I can't see what basis Bob Gibb has for this - Canada have not bought know how and have been involved therefore only very little. I think there is some mistake in attributing any criticism to Bob Sanford - unless he is super-objective - he did set it all up.

Manufacturing and Control:

(1) and (2) Better leave this to Production Department.

Secondary Processing:

(3) Does R. & D. agree with this ?

(4) Better discuss this with Production Department

Control Instrumentation:

(6) Possibly - but it is not so easy to get contractors interested.

(7) I would be guided here by Mr. Cronshaw.

(8) It would be nice if we could - what resources have we ? If additional resources needed perhaps it would be better done elsewhere.

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Product Development:

- (1) See above.
- (2) And for legal reasons?
- (3) What new flavour programme? It would be nice to link up all our research projects into a coherent programme.
- (4) Good question.
- (5) See above.
- (6) Yes and blended.
- (7) See (3) above.
- (8) Watch out for pitfalls in 'direct contact'. Is success now $> 0.5\%$ - used to be failure $< 1\%$. But they are onto something.

Analytical & Testing:

- (1) May be but I doubt it. Take it up with Purchasing Department.
- (2) B. & W. have been very successful here - but, of course, they have the numbers.
- (3) Yes, but we should charge for this if we concentrate on Canadian materials.

Finally, I think you should send Bob Gibb and Bob Sanford your paper on their points together with this and other comments from yourself and those at G.R. & D.C.

S.J. GREEN

6th August, 1979

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