

OSHA SPONSORING NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE IN SEPTEMBER

In news release of Aug. 14, Dr. Eula Bingham, Assistant Secretary of Labor (OSHA), announced that OSHA will sponsor a conference focusing on problem of occupational disease titled "Lost in the Workplace: Is There an Occupational Disease Epidemic?" Conference is scheduled for Sept. 13-14 at Radisson Hotel in Chicago, IL.

In addition to Dr. Bingham, agenda includes presentations by Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall; Dr. Irving Selikoff, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine; Dr. Paul Kotin, Senior Vice President, Johns-Manville Corporation; Dr. Barry Commoner, Professor of Environmental Science, Washington University; Mr. Anthony Mazzocchi, Vice President, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union; Dr. Anthony Robbins, Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Dr. Samuel Epstein, Professor, School of Public Health, University of Illinois; and Dr. Nicholas Ashford, Associate Professor of Technology and Policy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, among others.

"Each year as many as 100,000 Americans die from diseases that can be traced to toxic exposure in the workplace," Dr. Bingham said in announcing the conference. "Yet many workers are unaware of the dangers they face or that the technology may exist to prevent occupational illness. We want to provide a forum for the media to hear and question speakers of a variety of persuasions and expertise."

Conference will include speeches, films, worker testimony and panel discussions including a panel of reporters with experience in investigative journalism on occupational health issues. Some 8,000 invitations have been issued to journalists throughout the U.S.

Subsequent to publication of program, American Industrial Health Council (AIHC) contacted OSHA in effort to achieve more balanced perspective of issues. As result, Drs. Robert Scala, Exxon Corp., Howard Kusnetz, Shell Oil Corp., and William McCarville, Monsanto Corp., have been added as participants. OSHA has also agreed to add an AIHC spokesman as a keynote speaker.

For further information or conference registration contact Carol Parker, Office of Information and Consumer Affairs, OSHA, Washington, D.C. 20210; (202) 523-8615.

PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY TO OVERRIDE REGULATORY ACTIONS SOUGHT

On Aug. 14, American Bar Association called for enactment of legislation giving the President specific authority to override "critical" actions of federal regulatory agencies, both within and outside the Executive Branch.

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