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On the Cover

Nestled in autumnal foliage, the grist mill is not only picturesque but might be put back to work during the energy crisis.

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DC 9 Begins Health Test Program

IBPAT DC 9 in New York City is augmenting our Brotherhood's wide-ranging health and safety efforts with a physical examination program of its own. And like the IBPAT program, the DC 9 tests will be administered under the direction of Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, the nation's top environmental health expert.

Several hundred members of DC 9 shortly will undergo one of the most vigorous physical examinations ever given outside of a hospital, James D. Bishop, secretary-treasurer of DC 9, has announced. Bishop disclosed that the tests are being given to detect occupational-related diseases and effects, by a staff of physicians and technicians of the Environmental Medicine Division of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine under the direction of Dr. Selikoff.

The project will be conducted in

past few years, he and his colleagues have had growing concern over the long-term ill effects that confront painters in continued contact



with such chemicals or minerals as titanium, lead, asbestos, epoxies, silica, quartz, dust, linseed-oil pigmentation, solvents and benzene.

Bishop noted that the incidence of cancer and cirrhosis of the liver among workers exposed to vinyl chloride, has caused great alarm in the industry. Paperhangers who utilize vinyl and vinyl paste continually and painters using vinyl paints are to be specially examined for dangers which may be associated with these substances.

Bishop said that a health operation of this type will have a two-fold benefit for the workers in that they will undergo intensive tests in a special physical examination, with an eye to concentration on symptoms of occupational problems confronting painting and its allied industries.

There will be a follow-up examination held by DC 9, which will be utilized for chest x-rays of members, as well as for follow-up tests for members who have developed medi-

cal problems or abnormalities.

Union members will automatically receive complete physical examinations that would ordinarily cost each member examined a minimum of \$200 or more, if performed by a private physician.

Dr. Selikoff said that, parallel with the newly-established Union health program, a long-term study is being undertaken on the effects of the various chemical substances utilized by the paint and allied industries on the health of the union workers. In some instances, it was noted, symptoms of a disease do not manifest themselves for a period of years. He said that "the new DC 9 research coincides with a major scientific objective: prevention of disease wherever and whenever possible."

General President S. Frank Raftery said the DC 9 program was a fine example of initiative at the local and district council level in the crucially important area of job health and safety. "With active programs



such as the one being implemented at DC 9, the 'Decade of Job Safety' will be a reality for each and every Brotherhood member."