

Over a Trillion in Sales

Says Asbestos Assoc.

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

CAP-1548

NEW YORK -- The Asbestos Information Association of North America, representing eight of the largest asbestos industries in this country, said at a press conference Tuesday that their product is safe and poses no hazard to the public's health.

President of the AIANA Harold McNabb told reporters that because heavy prolonged exposure to asbestos dust is an occupational health hazard "some scientists, government officials and writers have made an illogical jump that says if asbestos dust has a potential to cause disease in those who work with it, then it must have a similar potential for the general public."

Mr. McNabb who also is the president of Certain - teed Products Corporation, noted that "all of the scientific facts that we know about indicate that asbestos poses no hazard to the general public."

The AIANA president told reporters that the health hazard to workers in factories and mines "has already been removed under control through improved industrial hygiene practices."

The asbestos industry, apparently responding to public pressure coming from sources such as Ralph Nader's office, called the press conference to denounce the claim that asbestos is "more dangerous than cigarettes."

The AIANA was formed to "correct erroneous impressions" of the nature of the problems associated with asbestos; and to "communicate the facts about asbestos, and about industry efforts and accomplishments in identifying and controlling asbestos health hazards".

The organization says its objectives are to "disseminate information on the uses of asbestos", and to "publicly rebut irresponsible criticism."

Association members did much to discredit what they call "erroneous and damaging impressions" in the public mind.

For example, said Bill Reines secretary of the association and director of public relations for the Johns - Manville Corporation, it is "not true" that asbestos is a major air pollutant.

There is presently no known evidence of hazard to the

to the minute amounts of asbestos that may be present in the community air", said Mr. Reines.

The association secretary noted that small quantities of asbestos from natural sources may have existed in the ambient air for "thousands, perhaps millions of years." Therefore, claimed Mr. Reines, since man has evolved into his present form in an atmosphere containing some asbestos, "he obviously can tolerate small quantities of the material in the air which he breathes."

"The fact is", said Mr. Reines, "that there is no evidence that anyone in the general public has ever contracted a disease from exposure to minute amounts of asbestos that exists in the community air."

Mr. Reines further discredited the "erroneous impression" that once asbestos gets into the lungs, all of it remains forever.

"The vast majority of the asbestos fibers inhaled into the lung are far too large to be absorbed into the body."

Dr. Fred Fundack, vice president of research and development for the Johns - Manville Corp., said that the asbestos fibers which remain in the body undergo a "biological change," but that it is impossible to determine what damage the fibers inflict on the body.

Dr. George Wright, director of research for St. Luke's Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, agreed with Dr. Fundack that it cannot be determined how much damage is done to the body by the fibers that stay in the body.

All participating AIANA members spent much time explaining why the industry continues its research concerning the asbestos dust hazard on public and occupational health.

Mr. Reines, speaking for the AIANA, assured the reporters that "asbestos concentrations in both the workplace and in the community air can, and in most cases are being satisfactorily controlled, and there is therefore no reason to ban the use of asbestos - containing products."

Mr. Reines concluded by saying that a ban of asbestos products "is completely unnecessary and would serve only