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Commission Public Meeting with List of Participants



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

Public Meeting on Asbestos
August 15, 1977
10:00 a.m.

3rd Floor Hearing Room
1111-18th St., NW
Washington, DC

List of Participants

Opening Statement
Commission Chairman S. John Byington

Michael Helton
U.S. Gypsum Corp. (20 minutes)

< Julius Nemeth
Bondex International (10 minutes)

Harry Rhodes
Union Carbide Corp. (30 minutes)

Suedeene Gibbons
Natural Resources Defense Council (15 minutes)

Barry Castleman
Environmental Consultant (15 minutes)

Peter Simpson
Rustic Crafts Co.

Robert Rauch
Environmental Defense Fund (15 minutes)

1 of testing such as either an optical scan or --

2 MR. NEMETH: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER PITTLE: Back in the days when you
4 did use asbestos, what percentage, by weight, roughly,
5 was the asbestos in the final product?

6 MR. NEMETH: Well, in the joint cements, probably
7 a little less than five percent.

8 COMMISSIONER PITTLE: Between four and five?

9 MR. NEMETH: Yes, between four and five percent.
10 Now, that's an off the top of my head judgment, somewhere
11 in that range. Spackling compounds as such would never have
12 had asbestos as an obvious part of the formulation, however,
13 that's a little side element there that we have never put
14 asbestos as such into spackling compounds. But --

15 COMMISSIONER PITTLE: That must have been a
16 generic term that's --

17 MR. NEMETH: Well, no, this is part of that talc

18 --

19 COMMISSIONER PITTLE: Oh.

20 MR. NEMETH: -- process.

21 COMMISSIONER PITTLE: Oh, did you use talc?

22 MR. NEMETH: Oh, yes. Not in the joint cement but
23 in spackling compounds.

24 COMMISSIONER PITTLE: Do you still use talc or is
25 that --

1 MR. NEMETH: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER PITTLE: The termalitic (ph) count?

3 MR. NEMETH: No longer, no.

4 COMMISSIONER PITTLE: Oh, but you did?

5 MR. NEMETH: Yes, earlier, yes. All that went
6 out the window as of April.

7 COMMISSIONER PITTLE: Oh, I see, in April --

8 MR. NEMETH: When the television stations and
9 everybody, and our distributors, and everybody, began
10 calling, and that was the first we'd heard of it.

11 COMMISSIONER PITTLE: I completely agree with
12 you, the regulation through the press is probably not
13 fair when there's not a chance to evaluate all of the
14 evidence.

15 MR. NEMETH: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER PITTLE: It's just something --

17 MR. NEMETH: Nevertheless, at that point --

18 COMMISSIONER PITTLE: It works both ways.

19 MR. NEMETH: Of course it does, and at that point
20 we dropped everything, which when I say that, when you do
21 -- when you think you're on schedule, and then all of
22 a sudden from that point on everything becomes a crash
23 program, why some of these things we're still catching
24 up on.

25 COMMISSIONER PITTLE: We're aware of that, it's