PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

CAP-1574

NEW YORK POST
June 29, 1971

EPA Warning on Talc

Environmental Protection Administrator Jerome Kretchmer warned today that common talcum powder may contain potentially harmful quantities of asbestos particles.

In a letter to Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Elliot Richardson, Kretchmer urged the federal government to make a thorough study of the asbesto content of talcum powder and the possible health damage that may result from breathing too much of it.

Kretchmer said preliminary studies done for EPA at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine on two different brands of baby powder found asbestos fiber content ranging from 5 to 25 per cent. The powder brand names were nto disclosed.

The EPA chief cautioned in his letter: "While we are in no position to provide evidence that this exposure of infants to asbestos inhalation contributes to disease in later life, the adverse effects of larger exposure have already been proven so definitely that it is only prudent to minimize all exposures unless they can be demonstrated conclusively to be harmless."

Mount Sinai's asbestos expert, Dr. Irving Selikoff, was quoted in the Kretchmer letter as saying, "No one, particularly children and young people, should be unduly exposed. We know that if a person inhales significant amounts of asbestos dust, he carries a burden that will provide a latent potential for the development of cancer for the rest of his life."

EPA officials said they had no idea how much body powder containing asbestos fibers a person or child would have to breathe before his health would be affected. "That's why we want a federal study," an EPA spokesman said.