

...million a year, worth \$233 million and has 4,600 paid employees. And like many bureaucracies, this one has found it difficult to change quickly to meet new demands—specifically that it pay more attention to poor children. Perhaps partly because of that, the scouts are also finding that neither contributors nor youngsters are coming to them as willingly as they once did.

Scouting nevertheless has soaked deeply into America. It has been an inspiration to the kind of American imagery celebrated by Norman Rockwell in his paintings of bright-eyed boys in khaki uniforms for the scout calendar. Scouts are still trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. "Some things," the scout literature says, "never change." Fifty-two of America's 65 astronauts were scouts. So were 40 current members of the Senate and 157 members of the House.

A Code for Boys

The movement didn't start here. It began in England when Lt. Gen. Robert S. S. Baden-Powell, hero of the Boer War, wrote a book in 1908 called "Scouting for Boys." Using his own childhood experiences of trekking and canoeing as well as his soldiering career, he devised a program and a code for boys. By 1910, scouting had spread to Continental Europe, Australia, Latin America and the U.S. Now 150 countries have scouting groups with a total membership of 12 million scouts and volunteers.

But nowhere has scouting become more popular than in this country. There are currently 4.9 million scouts and 1.6 million adult volunteers here. (The only other countries where volunteer and boy membership total over 1 million are Indonesia and the Philippines.) Since scouting arrived in the U.S. in 1910, 53.3 million people have joined the movement. The scouts say that one of every two living American males has at one time or another been a scout or an adult volunteer. (There are 3.9 million Girl Scouts and volunteers in the country, too, but they haven't any connection with the Boy Scouts, and their organization isn't quite so awesome.)

The sheer size of scouting, if nothing else, has made another American institution its model—corporate business. Alden Barber, the \$55,000-a-year chief scout executive, refers to the expanding explorer program, for instance, as a "market opportunity." And it is from business that scouting gets much of its leadership. Mr. Barber's volunteer executive committee includes Norton Clapp, chairman of Weyerhaeuser Co.; Edwin H. Gott, chairman of U.S. Steel Corp.; Louis W. Menk, chairman of Mack Trucks Inc.; Robert W. Sarnoff, chairman of RCA, and Thomas J. Watson Jr., chairman of IBM Corp. Of the committee's 21 members, 20 are businessmen and 16 are either chairmen or presidents of large corporations. (The lone exception is James E. Johnson, assistant Secretary of the Navy.)

The corporate mood suffuses scouting's national headquarters, a \$38 million office complex in North Brunswick, N.J. Here "support services" are provided for the country's 168,000 cub packs (boys eight through 10 years old), scout troops (11 through 17) and explorer posts (young men and women 15 through 20). Computer banks keep track of the membership statistics; the communications group tends to 2,000 publications; the engineering service drafts plans for 800 scout camps. In all, 950 people spend \$14.5 million for the headquarters in a year, most of them working in North Brunswick's broad, carpeted offices, divided maze-like by sound-absorbing partitions.

Here, too, is the supply division, which sells

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officials said the company didn't have any plans at present to build such a city. Libya is thinking of cutting crude-oil production to prop its high auction prices of as much as \$20 a barrel.

(Story on Page 4)

A prime rate reduction to 9% from 9 1/4% became widespread in the banking industry. A further drop to 8 1/4% was seen possible if the downturn in money-market rates continued.

(Story on Page 33)

Gold's price rose to a record \$150 an ounce in London yesterday, up \$1.10 from Friday afternoon's setting. The U.S. dollar dropped sharply in relation to most European currencies. London bullion dealers said the gold price could go even higher if it remains around \$150 for a couple of days.

(Story on Page 5)

Cerro Corp.'s Cerro de Pasco subsidiary, nationalized Jan. 1, will be allowed to send back to the U.S. as much as \$67 million, the Peruvian government said. The offer, however, is conditioned on other payments by Cerro.

(Story on Page 10)

Ciba-Geigy said it plans to make a tender offer for Funk Seeds International common stock at \$16 a share, or as much as \$34.4 million for all shares outstanding. Funk warned its holders not to act "hastily."

(Story on Page 8)

National Alfalfa officials are trying to sort out claims against the Kansas company resulting from dealings over the past year by ousted president Charles Peterson. The total is already believed to be nearly \$6 million and could go higher.

(Story on Page 16)

Vinyl chloride, a widely used industrial chemical, is termed the cause of a "new occupational disease" by a government health official. Scientific evidence is mounting that the chemical causes cancer in workers exposed to it. The evidence of hazards means that a major change in manufacturing practice will be necessary to reduce workers' exposure to the chemical.

(Story on Page 7)

Markets—

U.S. securities and commodities exchanges were closed yesterday for Washington's Birthday.

Stocks — Volume Friday 12,640,000 shares. Dow Jones Industrials \$20.32, up 10.40, transportation 144.77, up 2.20, utilities 93.24, up 0.15. Bonds — Dow Jones 10 bonds 77.14, up 0.12. Commodities — Dow Jones futures index 310.17, up .25, spot index 359.32, up .15.

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two former SEC chiefs and possibly two others of President Nixon.

The leading candidate to succeed an Burch as Federal Communications Commission chairman is Richard E. Wiley, 39, was a member of the agency has favored increased competition, especially in the area of common carriers. Burch, 46-year old former aide to a Harry Goldwater and ex-chairman of the CP National Committee, will become a presidential counselor.

The Secret Service ended its protection of former Vice President Spiro Agnew, for months after his resignation. The Treasury Department, of which the Secret Service is a part, acted following a General Accounting Office ruling last week that the protection was illegal.

Hemispheric foreign ministers opened a conference in Mexico City at which Mexico's Emilio Rabasa, elected chairman, called for Latin American unity and a meeting "on an equal footing" with Secretary of State Kissinger when he arrives later this week. Cuba was the only Latin American nation that wasn't invited.

British coal miners asked the pay board to approve wage increases larger than guidelines permit, arguing that the danger of their work makes them a special case. The union's secretary said miners want a top basic wage equivalent to about \$105 weekly, estimating that it would require a 24.4% boost. But the government, which has offered a 16.5% increase, said meeting miners' demands would require a 30% to 35% raise. Meanwhile, nominations for the Feb. 28 election closed, with about 2,000 candidates seeking the 635 seats in the House of Commons.

The U.S. abolished a debt of \$3.2 billion owed by India for 20 years of food and other assistance. The debt had become a political irritant and paying it would have cut deeply into India's monetary reserves, so U.S. Ambassador Daniel Moynihan negotiated an agreement to end it last December. India will use much of the money it would otherwise have had to pay the U.S. in a five-year program of agricultural, social and economic development.

Pakistan will recognize Bangladesh, which was East Pakistan until the 1971 war, as a separate nation, the semiofficial Pakistani newspaper Nusawat reported. It said Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman would clear a key obstacle to recognition by dropping plans to try 195 Pakistani prisoners as war criminals. Indonesian Foreign Minister Adam Malik, in Lahore, Pakistan, for a 30-nation Islamic summit meeting to begin Friday, said Bangladesh had assured him it would solve the prisoner problem.

An Army private who crash-landed a stolen helicopter on the White House south lawn early Sunday was returned to Walter Reed Army Hospital for further psychiatric evaluation. Pfc. Robert K. Preston appeared briefly in federal court where federal charges against him were dropped, but he may face court martial. Asked whether his midnight stunt had anything to do with his washing out of Army high school, Preston replied "Could be."

A man in Fayette, Miss., shot to death relatives as they were sleeping, including a wife and daughter, police said. They arrested Frankie Lee Lias, 20, who told them "a Bible voice" had told him what to do.

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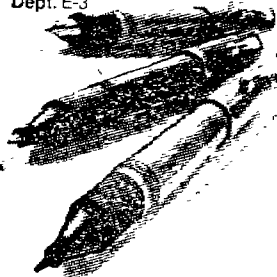
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DENNY'S

More Cases of Liver Cancer Are Reported Among Workers at Vinyl Chloride Plant

By JONATHAN SPIVAK

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — Scientific evidence is mounting that the widely used industrial chemical vinyl chloride causes cancer in workers exposed to it.

The public health and industrial implications are serious and substantial, government experts say. "We are faced with a new occupational disease. There is no sense denying it," states John O'Neill, chief of the division of health standards in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The evidence of vinyl chloride's hazards means a major change in manufacturing practice will be necessary to reduce workers' exposure to it. Federal and private industry experts are working on a high-priority effort to determine the exact extent of risk from the substance and what further precautions will be needed.

Vinyl chloride is used in making a wide array of plastics, including pipes, floor tiles, records and other consumer products. It normally is a gas and is converted in manufacturing to a material called polyvinyl chloride, a powdery substance that is then converted into finished products.

The first firm indications of the chemical's possible danger came last month with the report by B. F. Goodrich Chemical Co., a division of B. F. Goodrich Co., that it had been determined that four workers at its Louisville, Ky., plant, which converts vinyl chloride into polyvinyl chloride, had died from a rare type of liver cancer called angiosarcoma. This cancer, which affects the blood vessels of the liver, is thought to occur among only 25 persons a year nationwide. Thus, the cluster at the Goodrich plant, the largest manufacturer of polyvinyl chloride in the nation, stirred immediate concern.

Then, over the weekend federal authorities reported two more cases of angiosarcoma at the Goodrich plant, bringing to six the number occurring there. "This makes it a bigger problem than we had believed," declared Marcus Key, director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, which makes scientific recommendations to the Labor Department. The institute is part of the Health, Education and Welfare Department.

So far, however, federal authorities aren't prepared to assert specifically that vinyl chloride causes liver cancer. They note, along with Goodrich officials, that workers at the company's plant are exposed to a variety of other chemicals involved in the conversion of vinyl chloride to polyvinyl chloride. But the circumstantial evidence is increasing, and a strong case is building from records of human cancer and animal experiments that a substantial health problem has been uncovered.

The immediate issue is what new precautionary measures should be taken to protect workers. Some 6,500 employees at 37 plants operated by 23 U.S. manufacturers are involved. Union representatives have urged the Occupational Safety Agency to issue an immediate order tightening its existing limit of 500 parts per million in the atmosphere. Industry representatives, however, urge that the Labor Department take more time in investigating the problem and issue its new regulations under usual procedures, which permit a public hearing before they go into effect.

Alexander Reis, an official of the Occupational Safety Agency, said the decision on emergency regulations would be made only after additional information from current government and industry studies was available. "About the only thing that is clear is the existing standard will have to be changed," Mr. Reis said.

The HEW Institute is urging that the Labor Department act as promptly as possible by issuing rules requiring vinyl chloride manufacturers to operate under a so-called "closed system." This means that workers would be fully protected against any exposure to the chemical, and it would require significant changes in manufacturing processes, government specialists say. The HEW recommendations also would call for monitoring of the environment in the plants and medical tests of workers to determine whether they are beginning to experience adverse effects. The institute also is urging that there be warning placards in manufacturing areas and that employers be required to provide specific warning information to employees.

Meanwhile, government and industry are accelerating efforts to determine the extent of the problem and to determine more definitively the role played by vinyl chloride in its cause. The Goodrich Louisville plant was one of the first to begin production of the plastic component after World War II and the type of cancer diagnosed in its employees is one that takes many years to become evident. The first four workers found to have the disease had been ex-

posed for at least 14 years before the illness.

An initial government step will be to survey other vinyl chloride plants, particularly those involved in conversion of vinyl chloride to polyvinyl chloride. A cluster of such plants occur in Ohio, Kentucky and Pennsylvania.

In addition, government specialists point out that an examination should be made of consumers' exposure through the use of products containing polyvinyl chloride, although there currently isn't any evidence of risk in this area. "We are talking about levels (of exposure) at present that are achieved only in the industrial environment," points out Dr. Clark Heath, chief of the cancer and birth defects division at HEW's Center for Disease Control.

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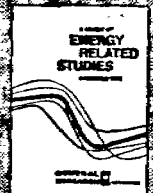
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