

JOB SAFETY AND HEALTH REPORT
March 29, 1971

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

CAP-1769

LARGEST ASBESTOS COMPANIES FORM HEALTH INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

Information about asbestos and health, including industry efforts and accomplishments in identifying and controlling asbestos/health hazards; will be circulated by a newly formed Asbestos Information Association/North America. Formed by eight of the largest companies in asbestos manufacturing, the AIA/NA will correct the "many misleading or erroneous impressions" of the nature of the occupational and possible public health hazards associated with the manufacture and use of asbestos and asbestos-containing products, the Association announced.

Current actions on asbestos cited by AIA/NA's Secretary, W. P. Raines, include: (1) HEW is preparing report recommending new Federal dust standards for asbestos processing plants and mines; (2) medical experts committee of National Academy of Sciences is drafting recommendations for control of asbestos dust emissions into the ambient air under grant from EPA's Office of Air Pollution Control; (3) number of state and city governments, including New York City and Philadelphia, are considering proposals to ban or strictly regulate use of certain asbestos products, primarily asbestos-containing spray insulations employed in high-rise building construction.

Asbestos is basically an occupational health hazard, Raines said, and there is no evidence of hazard to the general public from exposure to the minute amounts of asbestos that may be in community air. Some doctors, writers, and others have "translated the occupational hazard to the general public without considering the vast differences in the amount of exposure between the two groups." A worker employed at a level of 5 fibers per cubic centimeter of air, recommended as safe by the American Conference of Governmental and Industrial Hygienists for occupational exposure, has an exposure at least 30,000 to 100,000 times higher than that of the average New Yorker, who in a lifetime of 70 years would be exposed to an amount no greater than a mine or plant employee would experience in two-and-a-half working days, he said.

"Low occupational levels of exposure have produced no disease, Raines stated, citing epidemiological study of occupational groups in England, the U.S., and Canada. Asbestos-related disease at higher than normal incidence "was found only among long-term employees exposed to high concentrations of dust in their work."

Asbestos concentrations in both the workplace and in community air can and, in most instances, are being satisfactorily controlled, and there is therefore no reason to ban the use of any asbestos-containing product, Raines said.

President, of AIA/NA is Harold McNabb, president, Piping and Plastics Industries Division, Certain-teed Products Corp. Directors are from the National Gypsum Co., GAF Corp., Flintkote Co., Johns-Manville Corp., Panacorp Corp., Woodward Iron Co., and Raybestos-Manhattan.