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EXHIBIT
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HOWIT NEWS

TUC asbestos safety plan would cost jobs at Turner & Newall

BY DAVID FREUD, INDUSTRIAL STAFF

A TRADES UNION Congress recommended in the Advisory Committee's January interim proposal to reduce the recent statement due to the limitations of current technology. Asbestos products were indispensable to industrial society and would remain so for some years. In some areas substitution was possible, in others it was not at present.

There was no alternative material for brakes or clutches which retained the technical properties required to avoid accidents or vehicle breakdowns. Mr. Max Madden, MP, chairman of Asbestos Action, agreed that it would be irresponsible to call for an end to the use of asbestos when some substitutes might be as dangerous, or even more so.

However, Asbestos Action, a voluntary group formed 18 months ago, believed that there was an urgent need to reduce exposure in all applications. The safety level for occupational exposure to white asbestos dust should be reduced from 2 fibres/cc to 0.5 fibres/cc.

The TUC's evidence was presented by Mr. Peter James, secretary of the social insurance, for a similar group employed for at least 20 years before 1968. The incidence is 2.3 per cent. We are confident that for a 20 year career, beginning in today's conditions, the incidence will be nil.

Mr. Shepherd said that it would not be practicable to lower dust concentrations below the 2

ten MORE agreements concern, example — can sue for breach of the £20m. a year repro-graphic supplies market were placed on the Register of Restrictive Practices yesterday. At the same time, it became clear that Mr. Gordon Bottle, director general of Fair Trading, was considering the possibility of taking the parties before the Restrictive Practices Court.

The news adds to the rumours of Murch's Monopolies Commission report on diazo copying materials, which uncovered the existence of a price-fixing ring.

Diazo reprography is a form of copying mainly used for architects' and engineering drawings. The four companies involved in that—Ozalid, the market leader, two US multinationals, Addressograph-Simpligraph and GAF (Gerrard, Atkinson, and Harper) and Tinsall—replicated the 22 agreements, none of them still in force, to which they had been party within days of the report's publication.

The same four were involved in the agreements publicly revealed yesterday, which were operated unlawfully and formally terminated on March 31, four weeks after the Monopolies Commission reported.

The most important result of operating an agreement which should have been registered and was not is that anyone who has suffered a loss through the taking place in court would be considered contempt of court interest.

Another ten diazo agreements registered

BY A. H. HERMANN, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Only one more restrictive agreement between the members of Ozalid price ring is said to be still existing. This covers certain sizes of reprographic material but it is claimed that these sizes are no longer manufactured and the agreement is of no practical significance.

Should the Director General of Fair Trading decide to take the companies to the Restrictive Practices Court, it would be to seek an order restraining them from operating the agreements which they have already given up, and any other unregistered agreements.

Only the Restrictive Practices Court can say with finality whether these should have been registered and whether they were contrary to the public interest.

The present case of Ozalid agreements illustrates the same. What artificial division of work between the Monopolies Commission and the Fair Trading Office.

The Fair Trading Office must not engage in "fishing expeditions" trying to obtain information about agreements unless it has good grounds to believe that these are restrictive.

The Monopolies Commission on the other hand can act as many questions as it likes but must not base its conclusions on restrictive trading agreements which should have been registered with the Fair Trading Office.

It is merely concerned with whether a monopoly exists, or not as the result of agreements or without them. In its investigation of the diazo market the Commission accepted that the existence of the complex monopoly could not be identified by the evidence of the unregistered agreements.

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and expose the parties to it to fines and imprisonment. Ozalid which has recently passed into the control of the Dutch group, the Van der Grinten, has attracted the attention of Department of Trade Inspectors and the intention to investigate its affairs was announced about six weeks ago.

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