

Asbestos in 1981-82. Expert witnesses from around the world, who favor stringent asbestos regulation in occupational settings where much higher exposures can exist, were virtually unanimous in telling the expert hearing panel that asbestos exposures in public schools presented no cause for concern.

For example, Julian Peto, a distinguished biostatistician at the Oxford University who served on the Consumer Product Safety Commission's asbestos panel and a strong advocate of stringent occupational asbestos regulation, described the risk from asbestos in school buildings as "negligible."[6] Similarly, Dr. Murray Finkelstein of the Ontario Ministry of Labor, who urged the Commission to recommend tightening of the Province's occupational standards, nonetheless commented about schools:

> My feeling is that the risk to people working in schools, exposed to whatever ambient levels of asbestos there are in the schools, is probably inconsequential. . . . I think this is possibly one instance where people have been worried . . . the harm done by the psychological trauma has possibly been greater than the benefit derived in cleaning up the asbestos in the schools.[7]

Dr. Henry Anderson, formerly of the Mt. Sinai Medical Center and now a public health official in Wisconsin, testified that he was "not aware that there are any mesotheliomas that have been attributed to . . . school asbestos exposure."[8] In addition, the Chairman of the Medical Commission for the British Advisory Committee, Dr. E. Donald Acheson of the University of Southampton, reiterated the Commission's finding that there "is no evidence up to the present time of cases of mesothelioma having occurred as a result of exposure in schools . . . ."[9]

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[6] Transcript of Royal Commission Hearings, Vol. XXVA at 47.

[7] Id. Vol. XXX at 19-20.

[8] Id. Vol. XVI at 40.

[9] Id. Vol. XIX at 28-29.