

ground information concerning the commercial and industrial use of asbestos fibers and products containing asbestos. While the Consumer Product Safety Commission was part of the notice, the main impact on friction materials manufacturers would be from the EPA Office of Toxic Substances. In this notice the EPA asked for information on definitions of asbestos; the extent of exposure to those in the workplace and others in the environment, the necessity for using asbestos in certain commercial products, trends in the marketplace for asbestos containing products, information on substitutes for asbestos, and other such questions concerning background information on exposures and health effects from asbestos exposure. This notice had been sent out by the Institute on the Friday before the meeting. Some members had not seen the notice and others had not had time to study it in depth. It was stated that some of the questions on population exposed and types of exposure could be answered by using the draft of a letter that the Institute office had prepared concerning shortcomings in the IIT Research Institute report which was a background document for those at EPA's Office of Toxic Substances. The IIT Research Institute Report had been refuted prior to this by certain industry groups, including the AIA and it was felt that the Institute's critique could be in the form of an answer to the EPA's request in the Federal Register for information on exposure of brake service personnel and the routes, duration and frequency of these exposures. It was suggested that the response could be condensed and the emphasis on criticism of the IIT Report be deemphasized. The comments would focus on an answer to some of the questions in the Federal Register notice. The Secretary was directed to revise this proposed letter and send copies of it to the committee members. The committee members will be asked to approve or comment on the draft and return comments to the Institute office by November 15, 1979. If there are any difficulties with the comments by the members, the Secretary will work out the final wording of this letter with the Chairman of the committee.

Based on earlier recommendations to work with the AIA's ad hoc committee, this committee will consider plans by the AIA for response and member suggestions for comments on the other questions asked in the Federal Register notice.

FEDERAL ASBESTOS HEALTH HAZARDS COMPENSATION ACT

In May of 1979 the Institute received a copy of a draft for a Federal Asbestos Health Hazards Compensation Act. This draft was prepared by an industry group and had been patterned after the Fenwick Bill considered in an earlier Congress, but it was never even considered by the current Congress. The essential content of the suggested Federal Asbestos Health Hazards Compensation Act was that a fund be set up with assessments on asbestos products manufacturers, the tobacco industry, and the Federal Government. This fund would be used for compensation awards to those who could prove disability from asbestos exposure, or