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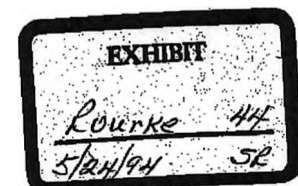
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5 CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS
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9 CPLIA 52nd ANNUAL CONVENTION, INTERNATIONAL HOTEL
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12 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
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17 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1969
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20 VOLUME I
21



reported by: William M. Rhoades

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6 But what disturbed us was of the 45 of did
7 not work with asbestos, nine simply lived in the
8 household of an asbestos worker, wives who were washing
9 their husband's clothes and dust coming off their
10 clothes, children who were playing on the floors on
11 which these men came home with their asbestos-laden
12 shoes. And in addition, of the 36 who neither worked
13 with asbestos nor lived with somebody who worked with
14 asbestos, 11 simply, simply lived within a half mile
15 of a plant where asbestos was made, was used, one of
16 the biggest plants in London.

17 Next light please. In this country the same
18 thing has been found. Jan Liben at the Pennsylvania
19 State Department of Health did the same thing, going
20 to the houses of 42 people who died of mesothelioma
21 in Pennsylvania, and sure enough, once more 20 had
22 worked with asbestos.

23 But, of the 22 who did not work with
24 asbestos, 3 lived in the household of an asbestos
25 worker. One was a woman whose two sons were insulation
26 workers. One was a child whose father was an

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2 insulation worker. And 8 simply lived in the neighbor-
3 hood of one or another of the asbestos plants in
4 Pennsylvania.

5 This has raised a very serious question.
6 The question of contamination of the environment
7 around building sites, around factories, in households,
8 and so forth, and the possibility that the disease,
9 serious disease, fatal disease, cancerous disease will
10 be found to be associated with such contamination.
11 And the public health authorities in this country are
12 therefore very much concerned with the potential of
13 this problem.

14 However, the public health authorities are
15 not the only ones concerned. Scientists are very
16 much concerned. Labor is very much concerned.
17 Industry is very much concerned. We all are.

18 We are for several reasons. First, and
19 foremost, the health of the people working with these
20 materials. That's the important thing. But in
21 addition, the information we have so far suggests
22 very strongly that if this material is properly used,
23 used in ways that would not involve contamination of
24 other areas, that would not involve excessive exposure
25 of working men, it could be used perfectly safely.

26 Therefore, our concern has been to devise

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2 ways of working with this material, which is essential
3 for modern industry in order to minimize or eliminate
4 the occupational health hazards associated with its
5 use, and simultaneously once we do that to also
6 eliminate the possibility that people in other trades,
7 members of Mr. Murphy's union, Mr. Houck's union,
8 people living around construction sites, households,
9 contacts of building trades workers will also be
10 simultaneously protected.

11 With this combined concern and combined
12 activity, we have become to make some progress. A
13 year and a half ago the employers, the manufacturers,
14 including Johns-Mansville, The Sprague Mineral Fiber
15 Manufacturers Association, the International Association
16 of Frost Insulator and Asbestos Workers, Mr. Hutchinsons
17 union, and scientists put together an insulation
18 industry hygiene research program, to develop the
19 safe methods, the safe working conditions for the
20 protection of the man working in this important trade.

21 We didn't wait for Government regulations.
22 Instead, every asbestos worker in the country contri-
23 buted \$10 for us to hire to the industrial hygiene
24 engineers and others, - - Johns-Mansville contributed
25 an equal sum. The Sprague Mineral Fiber Manufacturers
26 Association contributed funds, and we got off the

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2 ground almost immediately, within months. And the
3 outlook insofar as the insulation trade in general
4 is concerned is now very promising.

5 May I have the next slide please.

6 I'd like to show you a few of the things
7 that have been happening in these last twelve months.
8 This, for example, when we had our engineers go out
9 throughout the industry with the cooperation of the
10 union, with the cooperation of the industry, we were
11 able to define some of the most important hazards right
12 off.

13 Here, for example, is an insulation worker
14 mixing asbestos cement.

15 Could you sharpen that please.

16 And as you can see, he's in a dust cloud.
17 Incidentally, the ones that are on his right doesn't
18 realize that asbestos fibers don't understand and
19 don't respect job classifications. But here, asbestos
20 cement was rapidly the defined as a problem.

21 Next slide please. We found, for example,
22 that in the field shop, the cutting of pipe and cutting
23 of block created huge clouds of dust, and our dust
24 counts were very high in such areas. We couldn't
25 understand this. We then contacted every single
26 table saw manufacturer in this country that's applied

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2 to the asbestos industry. And we found there wasn't
3 one single table saw made in this country that had a
4 built-in dust collecting exhaust. It is unbelievable.
5 Nobody had paid any attention to this. Remember this
6 long period - - it fooled us all.

7 Next slide please. So we've gone to work
8 looking at dozens of problems. Here, for example,
9 is the dust that's created by taking asbestos cement out
10 of the bag.

11 Next slide please. What we've done. We've
12 field tested this last week in Albany. We simply
13 worked out a method by putting the cement instead of a
14 paper bag into a plyafilm bag.

15 Next slide please. Instead of dumping the
16 cement, we put the water into the bag.

17 Next slide please. This is the mixed and
18 wet cement.

19 Next slide please. And then its mixed like
20 this.

21 Answer - - no more dust, no more hazard.

22 Now all this took was somebody to look at
23 the problem. It wasn't a very difficult one.

24 We also looked at the saw problem was we
25 asked all the saw manufacturers which one of you, or
26 more than one, would like to build a safe saw for the

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2 asbestos workers. We went to the dust collecting
3 manufacturers. Which of you would like to work with
4 the saw manufacturers to put dust collecting procedures
5 into the saws.

6 We found that there were such people.

7 Next slide please. This, incidentally, was
8 something that Johns-mansville did. All they did was
9 put a silicone spray onto their pipe and their block
10 and as you can see here, no more dust coming from the
11 surface. They put a dust suppressant silicone spray on,
12 and this is going to be introduced in the next several
13 months.

14 Next slide please. The table saw, to get
15 back. This is how as you are cutting pipe, you create
16 these dust particles. These are what the men are
17 breathing, and you've now seen what they look like
18 under the microscope.

19 Three weeks ago, we went to Houston, Texas,
20 and we field-tested there, and also a week later in
21 Chicago at the factories of two saw manufacturers,
22 table saws at which dust controls were placed. And
23 they are cheap, only \$1400 per saw extra.

24 Next slide please. And this is what it
25 looks like. We are able now our dust counts show, to
26 completely suppress the creation of dust in the cutting

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2 of asbestos block and asbestos pipe.

3 And again, no great scientific research was
4 needed. Simply somebody to look at the problem,
5 engineers to think about it, to work with the manu-
6 facturers and so forth.

7 Next slide please. As we were working on
8 these problems that I just reviewed with you briefly,
9 we were made very much aware of another hazard. And
10 now I come to this convention. We were made aware
11 of it not only by our own field investigation but by
12 the fact that several large cities, New York, San
13 Francisco, Philadelphia, came to us and ask 'should
14 we immediately band the spraying of all insulation
15 in our cities.'

16 We described our experiences with the rest
17 of the insulation trade that I've just gone over with
18 you, and our advice to them was 'we haven't begun
19 to look at this problem yet.' If our experiences with
20 other parts of the insulation industry are an index
21 we think there is a fairly good chance, no guarantee,
22 but a fairly good chance, that this problem can also
23 be controlled.

24 We have some credit with these cities, and
25 some others and we have now been given a grace period
26 to determine whether our advice will hold water.

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2 And whether, indeed, this problem is soluable one.

3 Now, technically, I'm sure it's soluable. That's not
4 a problem. But all solutions must be accomplished
5 by human beings, and this is where we may have some
6 difficulty.

7 Here, for example, is some of the
8 results of our early studies. Those who have been
9 to New York lately will recognize this as 43rd Street
10 and Madison Avenue, the Equitable Building that went
11 up there.

12 Next slide please. The spraying was
13 being done in the building, and as we walked along
14 the street, this is what New York was getting as a
15 bonus.

16 Next slide please. If you wanted to
17 buy shoes at that time, I would have advised you against
18 going into Johnson and Murphy. However, my advice
19 to go into French and Shriner down the street in the
20 next block, - -

21 Next slide please - - would have been
22 no better. It was all over the place.

23 Next slide please. You couldn't even
24 protect yourself by going through the subway under-
25 ground there. This was the subway grading.

26 Next slide please.

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2 Three months ago, as we continued to
3 study this problem, we looked at the Tishman Building
4 at 55th Street and Fifth Avenue.

5 Next slide please. Our staff wanted
6 to look at this because the shop on the corner is
7 P. J. Clark's famous saloon, and they were very
8 disturbed about the saloon being contaminated. And
9 this is the spraying going on.

10 Next slide please. This is Duncan Holiday,
11 our Chief Hygiene Engineer, a very famous one, and you
12 can see we have been using his face as a sampler.

13 Next slide please. That little dot. And
14 this is what was on Duncan Holiday's face.

15 Next slide please. This is the roof of
16 the High School of Arts and Sciences, several blocks
17 away. We put a high volume sampler there.

18 Next slide please. This is what the
19 high school children were breathing in that day.

20 Next slide please. At the General
21 Motors Building, where we went next, on 58th Street - -
22 59th Street and Fifth Avenue, the housekeeping we
23 found was miserable.

24 Next slide please. This was in Pasadena,
25 California. This is the housekeeping there. This
26 was left after the job was done, and this we have seen.

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throughout the country incidentally. And we find it entering into the air systems of most buildings now. Many of these air spaces are being used as return air pumps. This is a disaster. And this is simply because of lack of looking at this minor problem.

Next slide please. This is Wall and Water Streets in New York. You can see why the problem exists. That's when he hits it.

Next slide please. Sometimes he doesn't quite hit.

Next slide please. As in this next one. And this was going all over Wall Street.

Next slide please. This was the contractors car, and he made his own distribution as he went through the city streets.

Next slide please. If you stand on your head, you can see that this is the new World Trade Center they are building, going up in downtown New York.

We're concerned about this building because it's going to be 110 stories, 5,000 tons of material will be used in the insulation, the fire proofing. Of which roughly almost 1,000 tons will be asbestos, and our calculation and observations so far suggest that anywhere from 5 to 20% will become debris.

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2 This means that perhaps 100 tons of asbestos could,
3 if we're not careful, be distributed through the air of
4 New York City.

5 One of the Department of Air Resources,
6 Air Pollution people in New York City, jokingly said
7 to me, he says we are going to do our sampling in
8 Boston.

9 Well, at this point, we met with
10 some of the people, contractors, some of whom are
11 here in the audience today, to see how this problem
12 could begin to be tackled. And I would like to show
13 you a few of the initial steps that have begun to be
14 taken.

15 Next slide please. For example, very
16 considerable care is being given to proper enclosure.
17 We're not satisfied by any means, by what has been
18 done, but it's an advance over what had been done to
19 this point.

20 Next slide please. The enclosure was
21 not only - - here is where it hasn't been fastened
22 down. Look at the debris in the center there. That
23 is the wind went through, would be distributed through
24 New York City.

25 Next slide please. Look at this debris.
26 There is a tremendous amount of it, and nobody has

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paid any attention to it. We've all gone slodding through it. It's ordinary dirt.

Next slide please. The enclosure has not only been on the outside, but we've even looked at it on the inside. The elevator shafts in the center of the building provided a chimney effect, which took all of the sprayed fiber and began to distribute it upwards from whence it then went into the general air. So that also was enclosed.

Next slide please. These were on the stairways of the building - - being distributed all through the building under construction.

Next slide please. This was at the mixer. Now you have seen this literally hundreds of times, I'm sure. But the question is how often have you really seen it.

Next slide please. This final table is the results of some averages of dust counts that our laboratory has been doing in these past months. Let me tell you what the numbers mean. At the present time, in order to prevent asbestoses, the Public Health Service is considering setting a level, - - I don't know what it will be - - it will either be two fibers per cc, or six fibers per cc, something like that - - this is fibers that are very, very small.

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You can't see them with the eye. You can hardly see them with a microscope except under very high power. And we will tolerate two fibers per cc in order to diminish the risk of asbestoses to our lungs.

This will not decrease the risk of cancer. We don't know how low we have to get to do that. We just are ignorant yet. We know it's much lower than the level that will prevent asbestoses.

Well, we are happy to do whatever we can at this point. Let's at least prevent deaths of scarred lungs. And to do that, we are talking about nobody ever working in an atmosphere with more than two to six fibers per cc. That begins to give you some concept of what we're talking about. Actually it should be about one fiber per 100 cc, perhaps, in order to prevent cancer. We don't really know. But in order to prevent scarred lungs, at least let's get that under two to six fibers per cc.

On the top lines, we put personal samplers on the working man, man who were doing spraying, your employees. And incidentally, the situation that I've seen among your employees, men working without masks, working under conditions which are impossible to believe. I doubt whether one of your employees that I've seen, at any rate, will be alive 25 years

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2 from now. I have never, in all of the industrial
3 situations that I've seen, seen the conditions that
4 these men are working under. Putting personal samplers
5 on these men - - those are little instruments that
6 we place on their chest right near their necks, just
7 about what they would be breathing in - - we found
8 on the average in four different jobs, anywhere from
9 35 to 100 fibers per cc, - - 25 times the permissible
10 levels.

11 In fact, the situation the such that
12 even 75 feet away, the levels were still higher than
13 we will allow the working men to work in just to
14 prevent scarred lungs. And even a half hour later
15 there was as much still in the air. You couldn't see
16 it, but you could see it under the microscope, as we
17 would allow a man to work in.

18 And, incidentally, to get back to the
19 hopper. At the hopper, not even with the spraying,
20 the levels were around 11 fibers per cc.

21 Therefore, we are very concerned with
22 your industry. A concern, as I repeat, primarily
23 because of the men, the human beings, being exposed
24 to these death dealing fibers. And concerned, too,
25 in the protection of everyone else, including 3½ million
26 building trades workers, and concerned that the

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2 solutions to these problems, which are present, they
3 are on the shelf, are not getting applied. I would
4 therefore urge you, with all good speed, to rapidly
5 apply yourself to the engineering and research necessary
6 to rapidly clean up this trade. Thank you.

7
8 Thank you very much, Dr. Selakoff, for
9 your enlightening and frightening presentation. I
10 hope it will have the desired effect on our people, and
11 I certainly hope you and your other scientists will
12 come up with adequate answers to protect our people,
13 because, of course, they are our most precious possessions.

14 Now, we have never had a convention
15 in the last ten years that we didn't get a report
16 from the Apprentices Committee. And please, at this
17 time, I would like to have Joe Ross give you a report
18 on the Plasters Apprentices Committee.

19
20 We have got a National Plastering
21 Joint Apprentices Committee that is doing something.
22 We are doing all we can with the money we have. We
23 are putting visual aids in the school. We're soliciting
24 money from government sources. We're working with
25 the MDIA Program, and we're also working with the
26 Job Corps. And we know we are in a position that's bad.