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International Harvester/Navistar

71. In 1932, the Industrial Commission of Wisconsin held proceedings of conference concerning effects of dust upon the respiratory system. This meeting was held in Chicago on November 16 and 17, 1932. Among those who attended the conference, as evidenced by the published transcript, was Dr. J.A. Britton, Chicago, Illinois, Medical Director, International Harvester Company. The disease asbestosis was discussed at the conference.

72. In 1936, a special session of the Illinois General Assembly was convened to consider, among other things, legislation relating to health and safety of workers. One of the bills covered the subject of liability of employers for injuries or deaths resulting from diseases, including asbestosis. Among those that participated in preparation of the bill were employees of various members of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, including J.R. Allen, of International Harvester Company and J.A. Britton, Supervisor of Medical Service, International Harvester Company.

73. As shown in the membership roster for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) International Harvester had employees who were members of the ASME going back to the 1920's and continuing through at least the 1940's. In the 1930's, the ASME published a journal entitled "Mechanical Engineering," which in had several articles which discussed the hazards of asbestos and other industrial dusts. One such article from 1933, calls attention to the fact that invisible particles of dust are capable of causing harm, are capable of remaining long suspended so as to remain a danger for long periods of time. That same article discussed the hazard of dust becoming re-suspended through sweeping and other activities and calls upon employers to use special care when dealing with industrial dusts, including asbestos. Another article, published in the October 1933 Mechanical Engineering Journal lists asbestos in the first paragraph of the article as an industrial material which is known to cause disease of the lungs.

74. Navistar (International Harvester) through its corporate representative

states it was aware of the hazards of asbestos in the mid to late 1960's. In the 1960's, International Harvester states it knew that there was asbestos in brake linings and as a result of information about the hazards of asbestos, International Harvester began testing alternative materials when they became available in an attempt to eliminate asbestos in both brakes and clutches.

75. In March 1972, International Harvester issued an internal memorandum, which discusses OSHA's new emergency standard set for asbestos; that memo characterizes any production operation that is capable creating airborne asbestos dust, such as machining or grinding of brake linings, as suspect.

76. In January 1975, another International Harvester memo was issued about the use of asbestos. That memo indicates that the company has made the decision that sales and distribution operations should also be notified about safety requirements in connection with the handling of asbestos materials. Specifically noted was a potential hazard arising in connection with the grinding of brake linings containing asbestos. Among the safety requirements referenced were respirators, vacuuming of asbestos covered clothing and proper disposal methods for asbestos.

77. In 1975, International Harvester's corporate representative, as an employee of International Harvester, saw an asbestos warning in a box of brakes supplied by an outside vendor to International Harvester. That insert cautioned against creating dust, against using air hoses, recommended the use of dust collection equipment, the use of a HEPA vacuum and wet cleaning, the disposal of dust in sealed containers and respiratory protection.

78. In July 1976, an internal memo was issued by Geoffrey Bacci of the Safety Department at International Harvester identifying hazards related to removing asbestos bushings from tract frames. Per that memo, while removing the bushings and cleaning up the area the operator must wear a disposable respirator and the debris must be disposed in a sealed plastic bag and labeled "Asbestos."

79. In August 1977, J.L. Simons, Safety Supervisor at International Harvester,

issued a memorandum which identifies special handling procedures to be followed by employees working with asbestos bushings and brake linings on tractors.

80. On October 12, 1977, a memorandum issued from Mr. Bacci, Industrial Hygiene Consultant, noted that respiratory protection is mandatory for all employees who install new clutch linings and test new clutch discs.

81. In November 1978, Dr. D.S. Janetka, Industrial Hygienist, issued an internal memorandum regarding bulk sample taken from a clutch disc box. That memo identifies analytical result was done of a bulk sample with amosite and actinolite asbestos dust taken from a clutch disc box. That memorandum discusses the fact that all previously stated precautions must be followed.

82. International Harvester has stated, through Mr. Shuman, as corporate representative that International Harvester did not have a policy to send out information about the hazards of asbestos to mechanics.

83. International Harvester has not been able to locate any witnesses or documents that show it undertook to provide warnings before 1982. The first precautionary label or statement which International Harvester has been able to locate, relating to asbestos, is a statement which went out in certain service manuals in 1982 but which does not recommend wetting down brake dust; does not recommend using respirators; does not recommend against using air hoses; it does not discourage dry sweeping and cleaning.

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AID FOR INDUSTRY URGED ON DOCTORS

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES
New York Times (1937) Current file, Jan. 7, 1946, Postcard Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2003)
pg. 27

AID FOR INDUSTRY URGED ON DOCTORS

Hazards in the Occupations of
15,000,000 in U. S. Stressed
at AMA Congress

CANCER FACTORS CITED

3,000 Delegates at Cleveland
Also Hear Paper on
Nutritional Needs

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES

CLEVELAND, Jan. 6.—The health of 15,000,000 Americans engaged in hazardous occupations is the direct responsibility of the medical profession. This was emphasized today by Dr. R. L. Sensenich of South Bend, Ind., president-elect of the A. M. A., in an address at the congress on industrial health of the American Medical Association.

Adequate measures should be taken to safeguard the worker from exposure to excessive amounts of harmful substances, he told the delegates.

Dr. W. C. Hueper of the Warren Institute for Therapeutic Research, New York, likewise warned industrial physicians to be on the lookout for new types of industrial cancers resulting from use of newly developed chemical and physical agents which have carcinogenic (cancer-inducing) properties.

The 3,000 delegates who are attending the four-day meeting also heard Dr. Robert S. Goodhart of New York stress the need for greater attention to the nutritional factors of the industrial worker. In another session, Dr. Alvan L. Barach of New York discussed modern treatment for inflamed bronchial tubes and sinuses, and an outline of the activities of rehabilitation services of the Veterans Administration was presented by Dr. Donald A. Covatt also of New York.

"The individual and his health are of interest to the medical profession, not only throughout all his activities but also throughout all the years of his life," Dr. Sensenich declared. "Different ages present different problems, capacities and varying restrictions as to activities."

Dr. Hueper declared that the known cancer-inducing agents with which workers come into contact were ultra-violet rays, X-rays and rays from radioactive substances, compounds of arsenic, chromium, nickel and, perhaps, beryllium; asbestos, tar, pitch, crude oils and greases prepared from petroleum, benzol and certain benzol derivatives such as betanaphthylamine and benzidine.

These may act upon the body, Dr. Hueper explained, through direct contact with the skin or through inhalation or ingestion.

Further, he declared that the study of the causation of industrial cancers would facilitate recognition of the environmental origin of other cancers in man related to factors associated with certain diets, medicines, medicinal devices, cosmetics, habits, customs, climate, contaminants of air, water and soil, foodstuffs and, since recent years, procedures of warfare.

Aerosol Therapy discussed

Dr. Barach, who is associate professor of clinical medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, in a round-table discussion on the upper part of the respiratory tract, described aerosol therapy, as the use of an atomizer or spray, to deposit small particles of drugs in the bronchial tubes and air cells of the lungs. Penicillin sprayed into the lungs helps many respiratory infections, he said.

In this respect, he added, that treatment of chronic sinusitis in adults and children appears to be "one of the most important therapeutic uses of penicillin aerosol when it is combined with a method of creating negative pressure of the nasal passages."

Dr. Goodhart, who is scientific director of the National Vitamin Foundation, Inc., declared the special and general nutritional problems of industrial workers can be solved only through the active cooperation of many different persons and agencies in the plant, the community and the home.

"By no means the least of these, in either case, are the practicing physicians of the community," he asserted.