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Firms forced to face worker health risks

By RICHARD GIBEAU
Press Ohio Bureau

CINCINNATI — For 72-year-old F. D. Allen, these are what have been labeled, with optimism, the "golden years," the time of carefree retirement.

Reality for Allen, however, is of a different color, more like a foreboding gray.

Sitting in a small room in his modest suburban bungalow,

low, in the dim illumination of a single floor lamp and pale wintry daylight, Allen (a pseudonym used at his request) talked about the dominant feature of his retirement years — a vigil against cancer.

Since his retirement in the mid-1960s his life has been marked off in six-month cycles, the intervals between a continuing series of hospital visits.

He makes those visits to undergo cystoscopic examinations, a form of surveillance to detect possible reappearance of the bladder malignancies that were first detected in 1958, with subsequent multiple recurrences.

During most of those years, Allen worked at making benzidine, a compound used in the production of dyestuffs.

Allen recalls no warning by company management of

the dangers of exposure to benzidine.

In European medical literature, benzidine appears as a suspect agent in cancer of the bladder as far back as 1929, in the report of a British factory doctor. That is the year the production of benzidine began at the Cincinnati Chemical Works at the rate of 3000 pounds per shift.

For 15 years the harvest of tumors among Cincinnati chemical workers remained essentially a private chronicle.

Early in 1973, a member of the division of field studies and clinical investigations of the National Insti-

There will be a meeting tomorrow at 10 a.m. at the Sheraton Hopkins Inn in Cleveland among representatives of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, labor unions and companies manufacturing vinyl chloride.

The meeting concerns a continuing investigation into the cancer-causing potential of vinyl chloride.

tute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) here revealed in an "off-the-record" comment that the division had learned of an "interesting" case involving bladder tumors among ben-

zidine workers here.

Two groups, supported by the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department, want a standard that will eliminate any exposure to the manufacture, use, processing, packaging, storage or handling of the compounds.

Contending that "extremely small exposure for relatively short periods of time will cause cancer in a significant number of workers," OCAV and the health research group have filed suit against the Labor Department to force it to issue the standard.

The issue is a major one for the chemical industry, affecting an estimated 1700 firms.

Solzhenitsyn book brings Clevelanders sad memories

By ELEANOR PRECH

For at least one Greater Clevelander the account of the Soviet prison system in Alexander Solzhenitsyn's book, "The Gulag Archipelago", brings nightmares.

Mrs. Zinaida Ilyinsky of 2642 Canterbury Rd., Cleveland Heights, confessed today she hasn't been able to rest well after reading the Russian language copy she got from Paris, one of the first copies to reach this area.

The reason is that her first husband, Michael, was among people Solzhenitsyn writes about. She pointed to the words in the book:



CWRU to set higher goal of excellence in its course;

By BUD WEIDENTHAL

Trustees of Case Western Reserve University have adopted a plan which could shift the goals and direction of the city's oldest center of higher education.

The 23-page document was being circulated on campus today following months of debate and discussion among faculty, students and administrators.

The statement calls for a

Although specific changes in departments and course offerings were not spelled out in detail it was clear that some significant academic changes were inevitable.

Specific objectives as finally worked out by trustees Friday are:

UNDERGRADUATE education will be designed "on the assumption that most

programs. Six-year professional degrees, new in higher education is a possibility.

So is the proposal of "guaranteed admissions" to some highly selective graduate and professional programs in which CWRU excels.

Case Institute of Technology will continue as a distinct college of engineering and science within the university.