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Painters & Allied Trades Journal

1887-1977 90th Anniversary

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DEVOTED TO THE TRADE INTERESTS OF RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL • SIGN • PICTORIAL • COACH • AUTOMOBILE • AIRCRAFT • MACHINERY • RAILWAY EQUIPMENT • SHIP AND SCENIC PAINTING • DECORATING • PAPERHANGING WALL COVERING • DECORATIVE AND ARCHITECTURAL GLASS WORK • GLAZING • CARPET • LINOLEUM • SOFT TILE • PAINT AND VARNISH MAKING BRUSH MAKERS AND TO THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN GENERAL

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The Decade of Job Safety

Does Your Protection Gear Protect?

Is your personal protective equipment giving you the protection you think it is? Maybe not.

Workers who use personal protective equipment, such as eyecup goggles or some industrial helmets, may not be getting all the protection they think they are, according to Robert H. Schutz, head of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) testing and certification branch.

Schutz, in a recent speech before the National Safety Congress, says that only about half of the eyecup goggles and less than 15 percent of the class B industrial helmets his branch tested met critical parts of the latest American National Safety Institute standards. The results of the NIOSH tests are more fully explained in technical reports from the Institute, he says, but that the following percentages of equipment meet these standards:

Men's Safety Toe Footwear—57 percent
Faceshields—68 percent
Welding Filter Plates—30 percent
Women's Safety Toe Footwear—0 percent
Firefighter's Helmets—67 percent
Flexible Fitting Goggles—100 percent
Glass Plano Safety Spectacles—95 percent
Linemen's Rubber Insulating Gloves—92 percent

Men's safety toe footwear standards were used to test women's footwear because no standard exists for women's safety toe footwear. NIOSH also has tested respirators and has specific recommendation regarding which type and brand name provides protection against various industrial airborne hazards—from the pollution caused by abrasive blasting to the fumes of various chemicals.

The Institute says that not all occupations are required by law to use NIOSH certified equipment but that workers seeking maximum protection from accidents and injuries should use personal protective devices labeled as passing NIOSH certification tests. The Institute, says Schutz, also asks that persons experiencing problems with personal protective equipment notify the manufacturer as well as either the Mining Enforcement Safety Administration, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. We also recommend you contact the IBPAT to insure prompt action.

Job Health Group Cites Selikoff

Dr. Irving J. Selikoff of the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine received the Society of Occupational Environmental Health Award at a Washington banquet in his honor December 5th for his "prolific contribution" in the research of asbestos-related diseases.

In 1965 Dr. Selikoff identified asbestos as a major cause of cancer among workers, including tapers. Selikoff had spent 24 years up to that time in epidemiological research. He also conducted the investigation into the hazards of the paint trades, which has helped launch IBPAT's Decade of Job Safety.

SOEH President Dr. Joseph K. Wagoner presented the award to Selikoff. He cited Selikoff as "a crusading scientist" and for his "long term regard of professional workers."

Dr. Selikoff, a jovial grandfatherly figure, accepted the award. He expressed gratitude to his colleagues and satisfaction from working in a field where medical findings were quickly published from around the world.

The banquet closed with a lengthy but vivacious address from Judge Miles Lord, U.S. District Court for Minnesota and a long time supporter of Hubert H. Humphrey, who had sent his warm regards through Lord.

Judge Lord's address swung from biting humor to biting in the area of ecology consciousness. Describing himself as a convert to ecology, Judge Lord told the group of internationally known doctors, industrialists, ecologists and labor representatives that he would confess his sins. Lord's sins included iron mine waste and use of DDT on a state-wide level against Minnesota mosquitos. Then he pointed the finger of guilt at industrialists, frightened bureaucrats and uninvolved labor unions. "There is no ecology ethic in this country . . . where it is not a sin to kill for profit."



Dr. Selikoff

Lord stated that if the public regard towards ecology does not change that we will be faced with the ultimate "cost benefit analysis" which is "some must die so that others may profit."

Present for the SOEH Award Dinner were OSHA administrator Eula Bingham who had just become SOEH's president-elect for the coming year, and IBPAT's Research Director Henry Wilson.