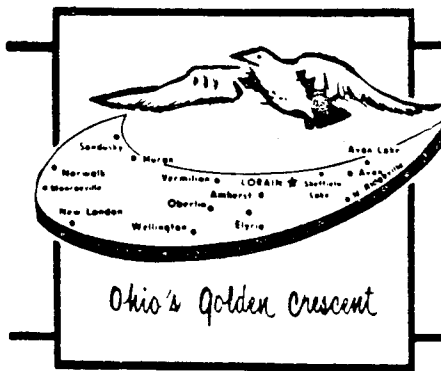




The Journal's Page Of Opinion

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4 The Journal, Lorain, Ohio

Wednesday, December 10, 1975

Goodrich Health and Safety

IT IS REASSURING news that B. F. Goodrich has virtually eliminated illness and even death from exposure to vinyl chloride at its five domestic plants. It is a splendid idea that the company will share its research with other firms for a "modest" fee.

What is still troubling, of course, is the fact that polyvinyl chloride, which is used in making plastics, will continue to claim victims until at least the year 2000. Company officials do not know how many workers will die from earlier, heavy exposures.

Vinyl chloride was first recognized as causing fatal liver cancer in the 1970's. A total of 45 persons worldwide, including Charles Arthur, 47, of Avon Lake, have died from angiosarcoma, the cancer associated with exposure to vinyl chloride. Nineteen of the persons were employed at plants now owned by Goodrich.

The fact that Goodrich plants will be safe in the future is sure to be greeted with relief by the workers. We are sure Goodrich officials were always concerned, but we note that it took pressure from government laws to get this progress this quickly.

In foreign countries, where the laws are lax, Goodrich has no immediate plans to get its plants as safe as the U.S. A human life is a human life, and Goodrich would do well to make all of its plants as safe as possible, as soon as possible.

THERE IS something else Goodrich could do. It could upgrade its death benefits to those who have already died as a result of working in their plants, and for those who may die in the future from heavy, earlier exposure to vinyl chloride. A human life is precious and should be so treated.

The Journal has devoted much in - depth coverage to this subject because of the concern for the health and safety of the people who live here and work in the Goodrich plant.

We are proud that our reporter, Peggy Engel, covered the Goodrich press conference in New York so thoroughly. She was the only reporter there from Ohio.

He's Prejudiced

A PROLIFIC father in Colombia, S.A., has become an advocate of birth control, according to a news dispatch, after having 36 children. Why quit when he's ahead?

Throwing Heating Gas Away

MAYBE WE ALL should think again about a comment made last week by David Sweet, a member of the Ohio Public Utilities Commission, about saving natural gas. Sweet declared in a talk that Ohioans could save \$50 million a year on gas bills by insulating and weather stripping their homes — and in the process conserve 37 billion cubic feet of gas.

Even if Sweet is only half right, his words should be heeded. The potential saving, both in money and in gas, is too great to be ignored.

reducing the gas bills of household consumers, be beneficial to industry. A number of Ohio industries are having gas wells drilled to insure for themselves an adequate supply during the winter months. The cost is higher but the purpose of avoiding the danger of shutdowns is served.

But why not get at least part of the needed supply simply by avoiding unnecessary waste?

Riddle

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