

Calls on Industry to Minimize Threat of Cancer

By ANDREW TULLY III

NEW YORK (UPI) — Industry should aim at "zero exposure" of cancer-causing substances to employees who deal with such material, a research fellow at the University of Cincinnati School of Medicine said Monday.

While absolute "zero exposure" to such carcinogens as polyvinyl chloride and asbestos is impossible, industry should make the effort to come as close as possible to that goal of protecting employees, said Dr. Eula Bingham, a noted

researcher in the occupational hazards of cancer.

Vinyl chloride is used at the B.F. Goodrich plant in Avon Lake.

Yesterday, Charles Arthur, of 950 Oakwood, Elyria, was released from Lorain Community Hospital where he has been treated for a rare form of liver cancer. Arthur was admitted last Thursday and had worked at times with vinyl chloride.

"It comes down to the practicality of

providing us with no exposure, and that's very difficult," she said at a news conference following an address before the Conference on Occupational Carcinogenesis. The conference was sponsored by the New York Academy of Sciences at the Hotel Roosevelt.

"But certainly we have to come to grips with this and...strive toward no exposure when we deal with known carcinogens," she said. "We can't tolerate leaking valves, we can't tolerate leaking

vats."

While small amounts of many carcinogens seldom are harmful to human beings, she said, other variables — whether a worker smokes tobacco or eats foods processed with small amounts of other known carcinogens — tend to blur the safety threshold of exposure of any industrial carcinogen.

Agreeing with her "social approach" to the subject was Dr. Paul Kotin of the Johns-Manville Corp., which deals in asbestos, but he insisted the thresholds

are no less valid, and he used the same variables she cited.

Because a factory worker may have other carcinogens in his system, it is impossible to tell just how damaging asbestos, for instance, really is, said Kotin.

"It becomes clear that...our inability to elucidate the sources of carcinogens indicates that no one can make that statement" that the safety threshold is invalid, Kotin told the conference.

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