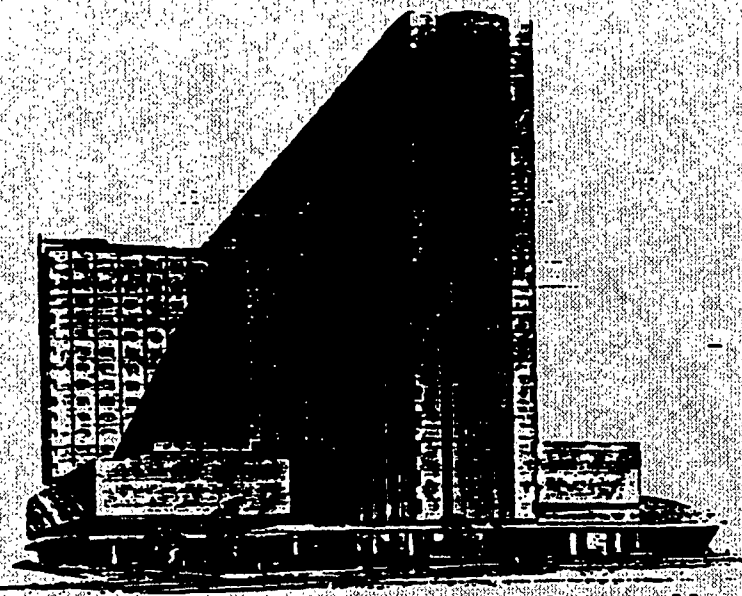


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plants, and was unable to obtain information from any of them. Meanwhile, he and Dr. Jacob Churg, a pathologist at Barnert Memorial Hospital, in Paterson, who had been studying asbestosis and lung cancer in a large number of workers from the Paterson factory, took their data to Roscoe P. Kandle, Commissioner of the New Jersey State Department of Health, and Dr. Kandle applied to the United States Public Health Service for funds to undertake a study of the Paterson factory and to make a statewide survey to determine how many people were being occupationally exposed to asbestos. However, the request was denied for lack of resources.

Since Dr. Selikoff already knew that men who had worked in the factory that made insulation materials were dying of asbestosis and lung cancer at an alarming rate, he considered that men who were installing such materials might also risk disease, and early in 1962 he made contact with officials of New York Local 12 and Newark Local 32 of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers. The asbestos insulators had been trying for years to interest doctors and various government agencies in their medical problems, so they were only too glad to cooperate, and urged Dr. Selikoff to make a study in depth of the effects of asbestos exposure among their members.

During the next six months, Dr. Selikoff and his administrative assistant, Mrs. Janet S. Kaffenburgh, pored through the unions' records and compiled a list of the names and addresses of the six hundred and thirty-two men who had been members of either of the metropolitan locals on December 31, 1942, and of the eight hundred and ninety men who had joined between then and December 31, 1962. From the unions' employment records, they obtained detailed work histories of the total membership of fifteen hundred and twenty-two men, including data on their withdrawal from work into other employment, war service, retirement, or illness. This enabled them to calculate the onset and duration of exposure to asbestos for each worker. Records of the unions' health and welfare funds provided them with the dates and places of death of the two hundred and sixty-two workers who had died between 1942 and 1962, and copies of the death certificates of all but one of them were obtained. In addition, autopsy protocols, histological specimens, and hospital records were reviewed by Dr. Selikoff and Dr. Churg in the