

would many times repay safety expenditures. Thoughtful business leaders soon learned that these savings were only a fraction of the financial benefits to be derived from accident prevention work. Indirect financial savings are estimated to be several times larger than the direct savings in compensation and medical bills.

Acceleration of the drive for safety

Industrial safety received wide acceptance in the years between the two world wars. Conservation of manpower during World War II intensified the safety growth, and the federal government encouraged safety activities by its contractors. As industry expanded to meet the needs of the war effort, additional safety personnel were hastily trained to try to keep pace. The acceptance of safety as part of the industrial safety picture did not diminish with the end of the war. By then, the importance of safety to quality production was well established, and the small handful of dedi-

cated people in 1912 had grown to millions.

In 1948, for example, Admiral Ben Moreell, then president of Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation, wrote

"Although safe and healthful working conditions can be justified on a cold dollars-and-cents basis, I prefer to justify them on the basic principle that it is the right thing to do. In discussing safety in industrial operations, I have often heard it stated that the cost of adequate health and safety measures would be prohibitive and that 'we can't afford it'."

"My answer to that is quite simple and quite direct. It is this: 'If we can't afford safety, we can't afford to be in business.'"

A discussion of current federal safety legislation follows later in this chapter under "Safety and the law."

A by-product of organized safety activity has been increased interest in safety engineering on the part of schools of higher learning. A number of schools now offer degrees and advanced courses in this subject and

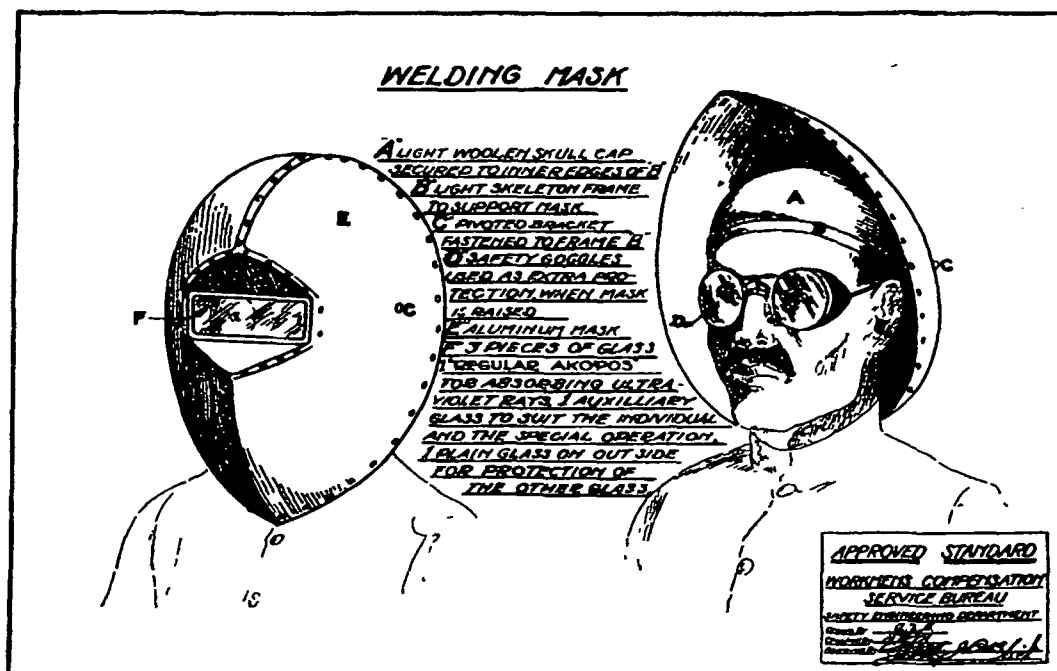


FIG 1-6 - Workmen's Compensation Service Bureau gave "approval only of the principle" of protective equipment and clothing. Its "Universal Safety Standard" (dated 1913) did push for double protection even in those early days.