PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

CAP-617

From the Desk of —

W. R. BOND
PRESIDENT
WOODWARD IRON CO.

Davis Heaver.

This means we must improve conditions on dust where needed. Follow up

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Asbestos Deaths Cited in Study

Daily News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A study of 632 asbestos workers shows that 425 of them have died in the last 10 years—more than twice the expected mortality rate for that period.

Author Paul Brodeur reported the findings of a probe begun in 1962 by three doctors in an article in the current New Yorker magazine. Workers in two local unions were studied, one in New York and another in New Jersey.

Only 285 deaths were to be expected in the time span used according to standard mortality tables. The reason for the excess of 140 deaths is accounted for by 47 deaths due to asbestosis, scarring of the lungs caused by inhalation of asbestos fibers, and 161 deaths due to cancer.

IT WAS found that one in five of all deaths reported was due to lung cancer, which Brodeur claims is eight times the expected rate.

"One in 10 died of gastro-intestinal cancer, and nearly one in 10 of malignant mesothelioma — an invariable fatal tumor of the pleura, which is the membrance that encases the lung, or of the peritoneum, a similar membrane that lines the abdominal cavity."

Brodeur reports.

"Mesothelioma," he said, "takes from 20 to 40 years to develop and almost never occurs without history on exposure to asbstos." It was previously extremely rare.

Today it is being found increasingly, not only among asbestos workers, but among those who live near plants that manufacture asbestos products and those who live in homes where asbestos workers have asbestos dust on their clothing.

THE AUTHOR said hazards from spraying asbestos, commonly done on construction sites, may be much greater than those of simply handling the products.

He said millions of urban dwellers have lived in the vicinity of sites in the last 10 years where asbestos fireproofing material has been sprayed.

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