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FOR JOHN MANVILLE INC.

PROGRAM SCIENTIST SPEAKOUT

STATION WBAI

DATE MAY 31st 1970

2:30 PM

CITY New York

DISCUSSION ABOUT THE ASBESTOS DANGER IN NEW YORK CITY

GLENN PAULSON: If the city took a leading role perhaps in this particular project, as another one that I've been interested in for some time where the city also seems to be moving fastest and first and that's the question, which is in the news right now of cutting down on the amount of asbestos added to the city's air by controlling the spraying of asbestos insulation on the World Trade Center and other buildings.

We're taking this program in the middle of the hearings on the new proposed regulations, which I understand it is the first time that any city agency in the United States proposed such regulations. I'd like to open for comments to anybody who'd like to discuss in detail. It's worth mentioning from my point of view as a ^{Scientist (?)} Zionist, it is very significant that a step is being taken not after damage which has been shown to the community, clear cut damage, although the medical history, as regular listeners to this program know in asbestos workers is really disastrous. One out of two asbestos workers will die of lung cancer due to asbestos exposure in the United States.

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But rather it's really a preventive step. We do not know any clear cut way, whether the several hundred tons of asbestos added to the city's air if there was no control, would in the long run actually take any toll on health.

We do know enough to be of course concerned and cautious from the scientific point of view. but rather than wait until the evidence is in that the community who breaths in the air might suffer. steps are being taken to not give them the chance to become human guinea pigs.

This type of preventive approach to a problem is the sort that must happen on all environmental issues, of course, and is unfortunately all too rare and the more common condition is waiting until the day that it comes in. Twenty years later, like DDT. Or forty years later like asbestos workers.

I wonder if anybody here has any other specific pet problems that they know of they'd like to see a similar approach adopted in the city - dealing with a city problem.

FRED KENT: I think maybe we comment a little bit on the asbestos rather than running away from it. The hearings were going on, in fact today we did have a member of the E.A.C. A person who was on the program I believe the last program you had. - Peter Graniss was - unfortunately he couldn't attend tonight, because he's trying to lobby for the Bar Association to have them send a letter to President Nixon condemning his move into Cambodia and - here's the faction who'd like to send a letter of support to Nixon. He felt his effort would be very spent. But I know he did have - he did go to these hearings and I know that there are other

community groups that attend these hearings, speaking out in favor of imposing restrictions which you mentioned on the use of asbestos.

KAREN DUMONT: I think that - it is not necessary for us to wait forty years to find out what happens with asbestos, because it's happened with so many other diseases that are - that would be similar in nature.

.... in coal miners, in textile workers and so forth is such, that we don't have to wait around again for something else to happen.

Maybe we are learning.