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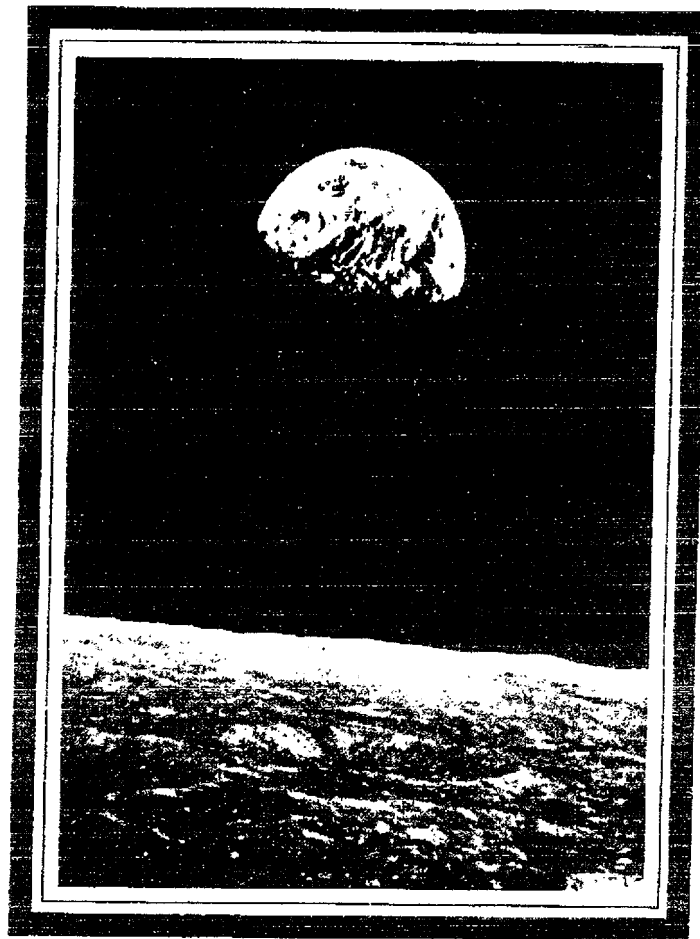
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outlook



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MORE ON SAFETY—WITH EMPHASIS

New health and safety regulations under the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act have been promulgated by Labor Secretary Shultz. Effective May 20, the regulations include changes in standards from those originally proposed by former Secretary of Labor Wirtz. Recommended by the National Safety Advisory Committee, the standards provide for establishing an allowable level of industrial noise at 90 decibels, and for setting a standard for respirable dust at 4.5 milligrams per cubic meter of air. In addition, a procedure is established for considering variations of those standards which prove unworkable in certain situations.

The O'Hara job safety bill is introduced in the Senate by Chairman Williams (D-NJ) of the Senate Labor Committee. Instead of giving the Secretary of Labor the exclusive right to issue safety standards—as last year's Administration bill did—the O'Hara bill provides the alternatives of adopting a national consensus standard, an establishing federal standard, or one arrived at by a nationally recognized standards producing organization.

"Safety, yesterday's orphan, may be tomorrow's darling." Under Secretary of Labor Hodgson tells the Industrial Relations Research Association. Less gov-

ernment intervention in labor disputes, and more safety in the workplace will be an area of policy emphasis by the Labor Department during the Nixon Administration. Hodgson also predicts that "Congress will make the first major legislative strides in this subject area that have been made in 30 years," by enacting two or three major pieces of safety legislation.

Construction safety—Before ordering reporting S. 1368 to the full labor and Public Welfare Committee, a subcommittee amended the bill so as to include U.S. court review not only for "blacklisting" of companies, but also for alleged violations of safety standards and contract cancellations. A clean bill will be introduced in the Senate soon.

AND—AS WE GO TO PRESS—

Safety Bill Cleared For House Debate. Rules Committee paves way for House consideration of construction safety standards bill by granting rule allowing one hour of debate and amendments to be offered. Meantime, Senate Labor Subcommittee rewrites its safety bill along general lines of House measure, but with some departures, including provision for standards advisory committee of 13 members, instead of nine, and judicial review of enforcement actions.

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New Mask Undergoes Field Test



They're not Martians, just members of Local 17 of IAHFIAW field testing a new type mask. Each mask is slightly different though they look alike. From left to right: Alan Miller, Edward R. Grant and James Hupp.

Science moved out of the laboratories and onto construction sites in April when insulation workers, members of Local 17 (IAHFIAW) in the Chicago area, were called upon to play a key role in testing a new type of respiratory mask to protect against on-job dusts.

Union members were asked to give their personal evaluation of the acceptability of three variations of a face mask especially designed by scientists and technicians associated with the Insulation Industry Hygiene Research Program (IIHRP). The project was given top priority when it was learned from a unionwide survey that presently available masks were not much used on the job.

The survey showed union members had many many good reasons for not liking—and therefore not wearing—present masks. Responses offered many suggestions that were incorporated into the design of the new mask. (See story at left.)

Although the long-run objective of IIHRP is to eliminate the generation of asbestos and other dusts on job sites, it was considered important meanwhile to develop better protection against breathing dusts unavoidably created by working with insulating materials. It is hoped the newly developed mask, already checked out for its filtering efficiency with the U.S. Bureau of Mines, will have broad application in other industries where dusty work is unavoidable.

Three Models of Mask Tested

Three models of the experimental mask were worn on three successive half-day work periods by Local 17 members working on the \$100-million addition to Commonwealth Edison Company's Dresden Nuclear Power Plant at Morris, Illinois. Each worker gave his evaluation of each mask, and IIHRP scientists then began analyzing these comments to work

(Continued on center spread.)

Union Survey Shows Current Masks Have Drawbacks

"HELP!"

"Try to convince the men the mask is all important."

"A good respirator can aid our program greatly."

These comments pretty much sum up the feelings that thousands of insulation workers have about respiratory protection equipment. Most workers find major drawbacks in currently available masks.

Because of this reaction to present respirators, scientists of the Insulation Industry Hygiene Research Program gave priority to development

of a new mask that would be both effective and acceptable to insulation workers. Such a mask is now in the field-testing stages of development. (See story at right.)

The quotations were among responses to a survey of the nearly 18,000 members of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers. Union members were asked by questionnaire about their personal use of masks and how they rated their effectiveness.

An important finding was that re-

(Continued on center spread.)

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Insulation Industry Hygiene Research Program

Editor: W. J. Nicholson, Ph.D.,
Published at the Environmental Sciences Laboratory (Irving J. Selikoff, M.D., Director), Mount Sinai School of Medicine of the City University of New York, New York, N.Y. 10029

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George W. Wright, M.D. Director of Medical Research, St. Luke's Hospital, Cleveland, O.

PURPOSES OF THE INSULATION INDUSTRY HYGIENE RESEARCH PROGRAM

1. To develop improved methods for minimizing exposure of insulation workers to dusts and fumes encountered in their work.
2. To disseminate knowledge of these improved methods of dust control wherever they may be applied advantageously and to offer cooperation, advice and assistance toward their universal adoption.

Scientists and Occupational Health Expert Join IIHRP

William J. Nicholson, Ph.D., has been appointed Program Coordinator for the Insulation Industry Hygiene Research Program. Announcement of the appointment was made by Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, Program Director.

Dr. Nicholson will supervise overall coordination between on-site sampling conducted by industrial hygienists, the laboratory analysis of field samples, and the task forces organized to seek solutions to the particular problems of the insulation industry. He also will serve as editor of *Insulation Hygiene Progress Reports*.

Dr. Nicholson joined the program this year after having served for eight years on the staff of the Watson Laboratory of Columbia University where he directed research in molecular biology and also worked on instrumentation for the automatic detection of abnormal and cancerous tissue cells. He is a graduate of the University of Washington where he held Atomic Energy Commission and University Graduate Fellowships.

In referring to his appointment, Dr. Nicholson emphasized that it is particularly important for academic scientists to become involved in the direct needs of society. "The ivory tower of the university no longer exists. To me, this program is important and exciting because it offers the opportunity to apply the tools and knowledge of the sciences to the practical health problems of construction workers and the general population."

Duncan A. Holaday, a veteran in occupational health work, has joined the Insulation Industry Hygiene Research Program as a consultant to several task forces studying specific health problems of the insulation industry.

Among his first responsibilities are the directing of field tests of respirators developed for use by insulation workers, and the selection and testing of a feasible, self-contained air supply mask.

Mr. Holaday comes to the IIHRP from the U.S. Public Health Service where he served for 25 years with the Bureau of Occupational Safety and Health. During this time he was Chief of the Occupational Health Field Station in Salt Lake City for 14 years and later served as Deputy Chief of the Bureau.

His experience has included the organization and direction of intensive studies of health hazards in specific industries, particularly those associated with uranium mining. He is a recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal of the Public Health Service and the Distinguished Service Award of the Health Physics Society.

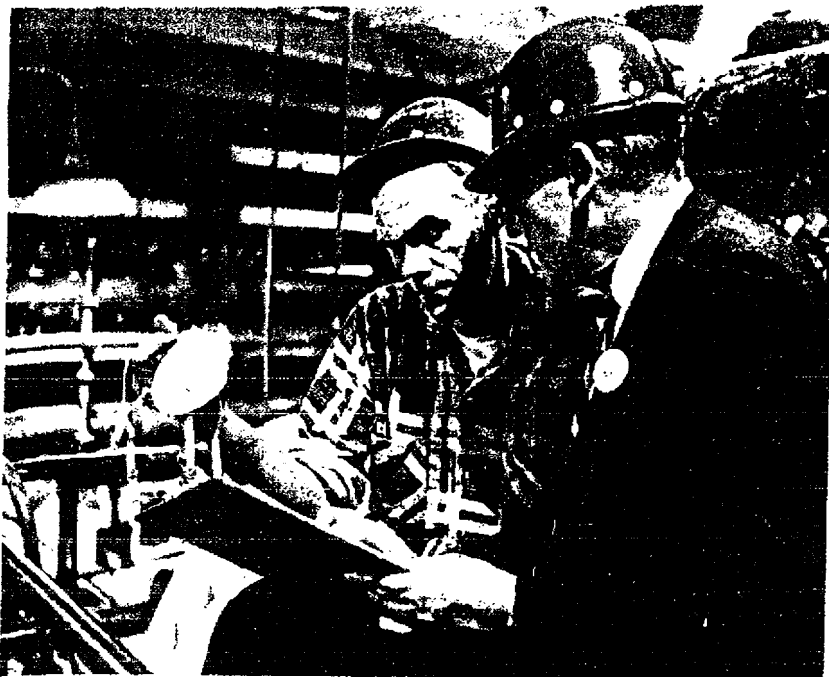
"Occupational health problems created by the use of insulating materials are manifold and their solutions will not be simple," Mr. Holaday said on assuming his appointment. "However, the fact that industry, labor and scientific groups are concerned and are cooperating to reduce the hazards is assurance that practical answers will be found."



Dr. Nicholson



Mr. Holaday



Insulation worker Bill Sheppard gives IIHRP staff consultant Duncan Holaday his on-the-job reaction to new respirator.

Results of Union Survey

(Continued)

Regardless of a mask's efficiency, it was too seldom worn, even on dusty jobs, primarily because of discomfort and interference with breathing. This particular finding stimulated the IIHRP effort to develop an efficient and acceptable mask that would be worn.

More than 12,000 members answered the questionnaire; nearly 8,700 of them replied to the specific questions about evaluation of the masks. About 5,000 men found the masks unsatisfactory; some 3,700 thought they were satisfactory. However, the fact is that those who said the masks were "satisfactory" did not use masks any more often than did those who did not find them "satisfactory." Only 1 percent of the workers said they always wore a mask at a dusty job and almost 30 percent said they never used such protection.

Here are some comments by union members that helped IIHRP scientists as they sought to develop an efficient and effective mask:

"On a hot job the gauze may become saturated with sweat very early in use and the dust particles soon adhere to the mask, making breathing difficult."

"There is condensation in cool weather and leakage around the mask."

"Most masks are designed to filter visible size dust particles. They are of no use in filtering dust of microscopic size."

"Awkward to breathe through and impossible to wear in some areas due to closeness of work. Also tends to obstruct full vision."

Worker dissatisfaction with available masks fell into these categories:

Discomfort	37%
Interference with breathing	21%
Problems with filters	14%
Unavailability of masks or replacement filters	7%
Inconvenient to work with	7%
Interference with vision	5%
Ineffectiveness	4%
Condensation problems	2%
No problems with existing masks	4%

Results of the survey have been analyzed by scientists and hygienists associated with the IIHRP. In designing the new mask, they realized two essential features were important: 1. The mask must be acceptable to insulation workers—in terms of comfort, breathing, vision, effective filtration, etc.; 2. Effectiveness must be measured in terms of keeping out fibrous dusts.

West Coast Sites

Two industrial hygienists associated with the Insulation Industry Hygiene Research Program have completed the second phase of a cross-country survey of insulation industry trade practices. Particular emphasis on the trip was given to observing conditions in shipyards.

William B. Reitze and Ralph D. Hindmarch visited private shipyards in Seattle and San Diego, and U.S. Naval Yards in San Francisco, Long Beach and San Diego. They also visited commercial and industrial sites in Detroit, Seattle, San Francisco, and Los Angeles to study how industry conditions and practices on the West Coast differ from those in other parts of the United States which had been previously visited. The application of insulation materials by unions other than the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers also was studied for possible health hazards.

IIHRP industrial hygienists have previously visited construction projects and fabricating shops in the east, midwest, south and southwest sections.

Wayne Kelley, International Organizer for the Western States Conference of the IAHFIAW, and local union and industry representatives accompanied the IIHRP team. Dr. William Nicholson, IIHRP Program Coordinator, and Duncan Holaday, a staff consultant, joined the team in the Los Angeles area.

Field Tests of Mask

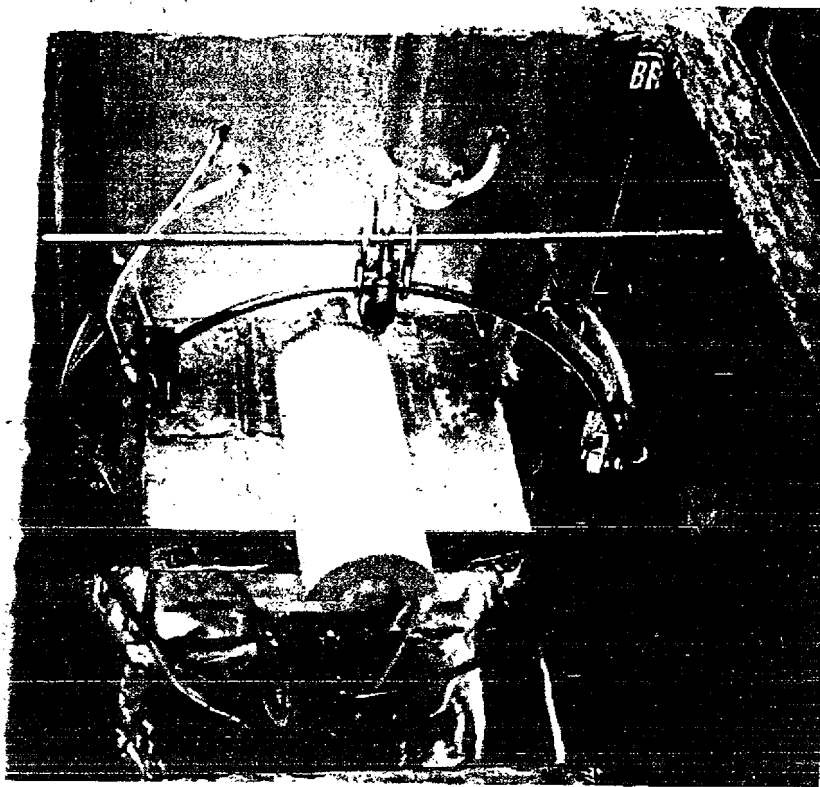
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out improvements for the disposable-type respirator. When this has been done, further field tests are planned.

"We are trying to develop a mask that is both acceptable and effective, because one factor is no good without the other," said Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, Director of the Environmental Sciences Laboratory at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City and Director of the IIHRP. "No mask is effective if it remains in the tool box or clothes locker."

The field trial was under the direction of Duncan Holaday, a consultant to IIHRP. Assisting him was Dr. William J. Nicholson, Program Coordinator of the IIHRP, and George Reimschuessel of Johns-Manville Research and Engineering Center, who is working on the mask design.

to Control Product Dusts



Experimental chamber in which new coating process is applied to prevent dust from shaking loose from various asbestos-containing materials. A section of pipe covering is seen. Coating is sprayed out of nozzles on ring.

A new coating process has been developed to prevent dust from shaking loose from various asbestos-containing insulation materials as they are jarred during shipment or handled on the job.

The process consists of applying a microscopically thin coating of a wax-like material to open sections of such products as pipe covering, elbows and blocks. The coating is pressure-sprayed on the products before they are packed in shipping containers.

Developer of the new technique, which is still being improved, is Elmer B. Hurley, a research associate at the Research and Engineering Center of the Johns-Manville Corporation in Finders, New Jersey. Development of the process resulted from the Insulation Industry Hygiene Research Program's overall effort to

reduce sources of dust at construction job sites.

Dr. Hurley said the coating, which consists of a wax-like substance mixed with water, is easily and quickly applied through a unique gun-type device. It dries by itself within 10 seconds and contains no toxic materials, he said.

The material is slightly tinted to provide visual proof that the surfaces of the insulation products being shipped are covered, he said.

Originally developed as a corrosion inhibitor for various metals, the coating reduces abrasion between items in a shipping container. This further prevents production of dust.

Dr. Hurley said research was underway to package the coating material in aerosol containers for use on job sites where insulation products are cut.

IIHRP Attention

Procedures for controlling and eventually eliminating possibly harmful dusts produced by solid waste materials on construction jobs are getting attention from the Insulation Industry Hygiene Research Program (IIHRP).

As a first step, IIHRP representatives met recently for a discussion of the problem with federal and New York City officials.

"The problem is more than one of controlling dusts from insulating materials," said Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, Director of Mount Sinai's Environmental Sciences Laboratory and also of the IIHRP. "We are concerned with the total population exposure to dusts that one sees from the great variety of material on every construction site."

Joint Study Discussed

The March 20 meeting saw agreement on the desirability of a cooperative federal-IIHRP project to study and recommend ways to collect, transport, and dispose of all construction wastes.

At the meeting for the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare were Dr. Marcus Key, Acting Director of the Bureau of Occupational Safety and Health; Russell Cummings and Jan Campbell of the Bureau of Solid Waste Management; K. L. Johnson of the National Air Pollution Control Administration; and Gerald Hansier of the Bureau of Consumer Protection and Environmental Health Sciences. Also participating were Austin M. Heller, Commissioner of Air Resources of New York City, Dr. Selikoff, and two members of the IIHRP's Advisory Council, J. B. Jobe and Dr. Fred L. Pundsack, both of Johns-Manville Corporation.

"I feel we have begun action that will bring significant results to this serious problem," Dr. Selikoff said. "In New York City alone 2,000 tons of waste a day arise from construction work. Four million men throughout the nation are involved with some phase of construction. The presence of federal and city officials at this meeting is indicative of the magnitude of the problem and the concern for it."

AND IT STILL GOES UP

Continued from page 35

ments, all public employees, and domestic servants, with an hourly guarantee of \$1.45 on February 1, 1970, \$1.60 on February 1, 1971, and \$2 one year later.

► Bringing all workers under the overtime provisions of the Act and pay overtime after eight hours in a day and 40 hours in a week.

► Repeating the provision which allows gratuities to be offset against the minimum wage.

► Removing the present \$1.30 cut-off for farm workers so they also reach the \$2 minimum.

In support of the bill, Congressman Dent says an increase in the minimum wage is the only way for the "working poor" to escape poverty and make employment a reasonable alternative to welfare.

LABOR NEWS

unorganized regions, such as the South.

—A new bargaining-table combine, backed by a huge strike fund, eager to match muscles and wits with conglomerates.

Building-craft pay. The average hourly pay of building-trades workers was \$5.32 an hour as of April 1, the Labor Department reported. Wages rose an average of 1 percent in the first three months of 1969, compared with 0.4 percent in 1968.

Raise of \$3.25 an hour. Five-year contracts signed by five building-trades unions in St. Louis will boost wages and "fringes" by \$3.25 an hour during the contract term. The Iron Workers Union rejected the settlement.

Tradesmen Swarm To Capitol Hill: Some 3,000 building tradesmen, gathered in Washington for 14th annual legislative conference, listen to long list of speakers, then advance on Congress to drum up support for their legislative program, with accent being placed on enactment of situs picketing and safety standards bills. Labor Secretary

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Shultz tells assemblage ending wage-price is prime domestic concern of Administration and asks delegates not to bargain contracts on assumption present rate of inflation will continue in future.

Get Involved, Schoemann Tells Members: United Association president exhorts local unions to participate in planning of model cities programs in their communities to prevent adoption of unacceptable approaches toward utilizing area residents under theory the unemployed and untrained can be turned into "instant" building tradesmen.

Total Of Minority Apprentices Expands: Labor Department reports that number of minority group youths indentured as apprentices through recruitment efforts of Outreach programs throughout country rose by 1,050 in five-month period ended March 1. This brings total of placements to 2,758 over 27-month span.

Court Sustains Jurisdictional Strike Violation: Court of Appeals for Third Circuit affirms NLRB holding that Operating Engineers acted unlawfully by ignoring National Joint Board award in favor of Iron Workers and continuing to strike to force employer on New Jersey nuclear power project to assign job starting and stopping electrical welding machine to its members. But court dismisses Board's finding that union conducted secondary boycott to support its work claim.

The current wage-price spiral cannot be blamed on labor or business, as it is an inevitable result of overly expansionary fiscal and monetary policies during most of the period from 1965 to 1968, Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Paul W. McCracken tells the Collective Bargaining Forum in New York City. He predicts there will be a slowdown of gains in real output, plus a drop in productivity, sharp increases in unit costs and declines in profits per unit of output, with the result that both prices and wages will slow their pace of advance.

Secondary Boycotts: May 12 markup of H.R. 100, to legalize secondary boycotts at construction sites, was postponed by the House Special Labor Subcommittee.

Nixon Administration Readies Occupational Safety & Health Bill: The Nixon Administration is expected to introduce a broad industrial safety bill designed to tighten health and safety standards on the job. Labor Undersecretary Hodgson has said the major thrust of the Administration's approach will be to "motivate performance" by States and employers to "remedy deficiencies." President Nixon is expected to issue a statement on the subject.

New Walsh-Healey Regulations Issued: The Labor Department issued new Walsh-Healey Safety Regulations the week of May 19 which differ from those issued in January in three major areas—noise, air pollution, and coal dust.