



ASBESTOS TEXTILE INSTITUTE

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18 January 1965

Mr. J. T. Griffis
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Charlotte, N. C.

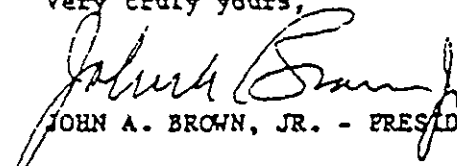
Gentlemen:

I am attaching an article which was written and appeared in "The Plain Dealer", January 12, 1965 in Cleveland, Ohio. We have already received several inquiries on this report from customers.

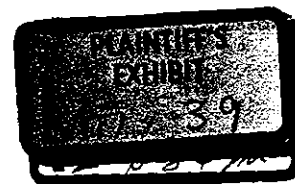
Although this lists various occupations having significantly high lung cancer mortality rates, it certainly is alarming as far as our industry is concerned.

I think that this article should be the subject of some conversation in our Board of Governors meeting in February.

Very truly yours,


JOHN A. BROWN, JR. - PRESIDENT

msg



Cancer Experts Eye Asbestos in Alarm

By JOSEPHINE
ROBERTSON

CLEVELAND, 1965. The Plain Dealer
Asbestos, used in more
than 3,000 American products
from textiles to insulation

ONE IN A SERIES

and flooring, has recently be-
come a subject of internation-
al concern as a cause of can-
cer.

Inhalation of asbestos dust
was said to be a rapidly grow-
ing health problem in the
world's industrial countries,

at a three-day international
conference on the "biological
hazards of asbestos" spon-
sored in New York by the
New York Academy of
Sciences.

The United States uses
more of the world's annual
production of 3,055,000 short
tons than any other nation.
For this reason a number of
American scientists at the
conference indicated that a
thorough study of the as-
bestos-cancer problem was
needed here in order to define

It so solutions could be sought
logically.

Satisfactory information
concerning the occurrence of
sickness and death among
American asbestos workers
was said to be largely lack-
ing or unavailable.

THREE NEW YORK re-
searchers were able to study
a small segment of the as-
bestos-cancer problem
through cooperation of the
New York and New Jersey
locals of the International As-

sociation of Heat and Frost
Insulators and Asbestos Work-
ers.

These researchers were Dr.
Irving J. Selikoff, Dr. Jacob
Churg and Dr. E. Cuyler
Hammond.

Dr. Hammond is director of
statistical research of the
American Cancer Society.

They investigated 307 con-
secutive deaths of persons
who were union members
from Dec. 31, 1942, and Dec.
31, 1962. Of the 307 deaths it

was found that 124 were from
cancer and 17 from asbestosis,
a disease from inhalation of
asbestos dust. These causes
accounted for about 45% of
the deaths.

The cancers were: lung
carcinoma, 53; digestive tract
carcinoma, 33; mesothelioma,
a recently described asbestos-
related cancer arising from
linings of the chest and ab-
dominal wall cavities, 9, and
other cancers, 27.

The New York doctors con-
tinued on Page 5, Col. 1

THE PLAIN DEALER January 12, 1965,
Cleveland, Ohio

Cancer Experts Eye Asbestos Perils



From First Page

cluded the lung cancers, the mesotheliomas and probably 34 of the digestive tract cancers appeared to be "significant complications of asbestos inhalation."

IN THE UNITED STATES, one in six deaths from all causes is from cancer. Among the asbestos insulation workers studied, more than one in three deaths was from cancer.

From such circumstantial evidence the need for protection of such workers from inhalation of asbestos becomes clear.

These workers represent only one small sampling of the thousands who are exposed to asbestos. They were said to be "primarily engaged in construction work in which they have relatively light intermittent exposure to asbestos-containing insulation materials."

They did not include "non-

union, maintenance or sprayed insulation workers, or those who do insulation work as members of other unions, such as longshoremen, ship builders, oil-burner and boiler repairmen, railroad, sheetmetal workers, laborers and others in various trades."

There is almost no information about the effects of asbestos products on American consumers and those incidentally exposed to it.

SOME RESEARCHERS from foreign countries reported development of cancer in wives of asbestos workers, who washed their husbands' clothes, in dry cleaners who handled such clothes, in people living in the neighborhood of asbestos factories or along the route by which asbestos was hauled.

The asbestos industry is only one of many believed to involve increased cancer hazards to workers and the public, that are being handled inadequately or not at all.

"Over half of the industrial plants in this country lack basic industrial hygiene control measures. The most serious deficiency is in the provision of adequate preventive measures in small plants of less than 500 employees, which accounts for two thirds of the (national) work force."

The above statement is from the report of a committee formed at the request of Surgeon General Luther L. Terry to develop a program to improve environmental health. The committee, headed by Dr. Paul M. Gross, professor of chemistry, Duke University, spent a year on the assignment.

One of the committee's recommendations will be carried out with the establishment of a national center for environmental sciences "for an enhanced and major national effort in environmental health." The center will cost more than \$25 million. It will be situated on a 400-acre tract in South Carolina in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area, it was announced last week.

IT IS BELIEVED that scarcely the surface has been scratched in uncovering American occupational disease hazards. During the past year an analysis of lung cancer mortality by occupation in the entire United States, has revealed 11 occupations

with significantly high mortality rates from lung disease. This was reported recently by Dr. Robert J. Anderson, chief of the Bureau of State Services of the U.S. Public Health Service.

Workmen listed as having significantly high lung cancer mortality rates were: blacksmiths, forgers, hammermen, carpenters, auto mechanics and repairmen, metal molders, construction painters, paperhangers and glaziers, plumbers and pipefitters, stationary engineers, tailors and furriers, tinsmiths, cooper smiths and sheet metal workers, operatives in primary metal industries and elevator operators.

An occupational health section in the report by Dr. Gross' committee concluded: "There is a widening gap between the new materials being created and an understanding of their effects on living systems . . . The industrial worker is first exposed to the chemicals that find their way into home use.

"Industry is the incubator for problems of more far-reaching consequence and alert, scientifically sound and unbiased investigations of occupational health problems can provide bases for later community-wide investigations."

Next: The Personal Smog