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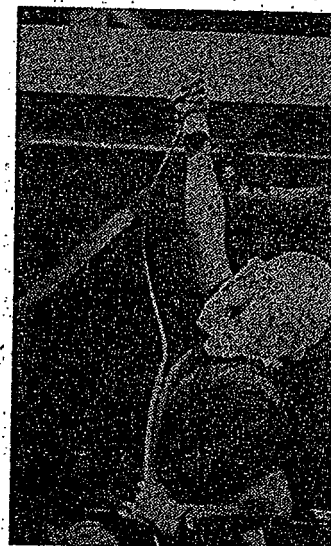
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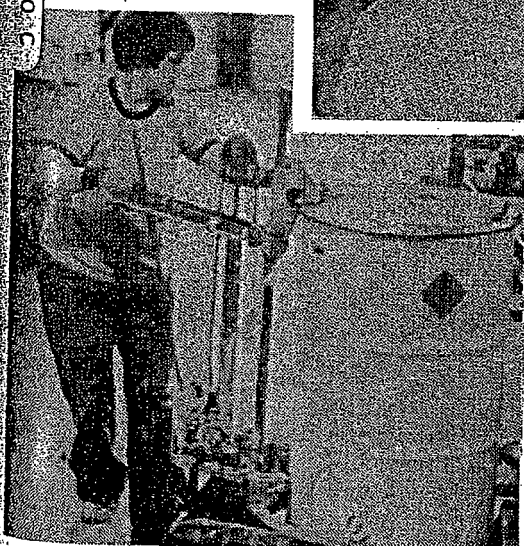
Painters & Allied Trades

FEBRUARY 1979

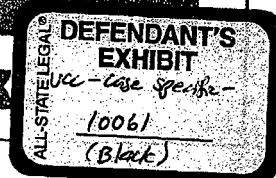
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New Patterns for Work



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Painters & Allied Trades Journal

On the Cover

This month, an IBPAT Special Report examines changing patterns in the way America works. The report begins on page 4.

Photos by Les Crandell

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Dr. Selikoff Nominated for Murray-Green Award

General President S. Frank Rafferty has nominated Dr. Irving Selikoff of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine for the AFL-CIO's 1979 Murray-Green Award.

The Murray-Green Award is granted to individuals who have improved the health, welfare and recreation of people everywhere."

Dr. Selikoff's name is synonymous with the health of workers. As a specialist in pulmonary medicine, Dr. Selikoff worked to find a drug therapy for TB. He received the Lasker Award for his successful clinical trial of isoniazine, the "wonder" drug most responsible for bringing the "white plague" under control. TB, at that time, was the number one occupational disease, particularly prevalent in the garment trades.

Dr. Selikoff founded the Paterson Clinic, one of the earliest HMO prototypes. The success of the program is best evidenced by the fact that the clinical experience there gave him the first leads on disease among the asbestos workers who were patients. He no longer directs

"Very selfishly, but most important to my members, I must note that Dr. Selikoff has given enormous amounts of his time to studying, investigating and diagnosing the health hazards in the painting trades. For the greater part of this decade, he has almost singlehandedly assisted our Brotherhood in identifying the symptoms of workers problems with their skin, lungs, nervous system, heart and stomach and intestines. He has educated our members on the causes of their problems—namely, the asbestos, chromates, epoxies, silica dust, pigments, solvents and other materials used not only by Painters but millions of other workers."

(From General President Rafferty's letter nominating Dr. Irving Selikoff for the Murray-Green Award.)

the clinic, but retains "week-end privileges." On Saturdays and Sundays, he spends his "free" time examining and treating workers from all over the world—at no charge.

He has successfully stimulated the first HMO-occupational health program in the U.S. (Northern N.J. HMO) and he has been asked to create a special permanent clinic in New York City by the labor movement. Worldwide, he has become the workers' doctor in New Foundland; Copperopolis, Calif.; Indianapolis, Ind.—wherever we ask him to go.

He is best known in the field of environmental medicine. His work on the hazards of asbestos has made him the best known doctor in occupational health. His work on lead, vinyl chloride, dyes, cotton dust, and other contaminants is the most substantive basis for the new OSHA standards and proposed standards.

His investigation and diagnosis has also been responsible for technological changes in products and application methods which have greatly reduced worker exposure to unhealthy substances. At his urging and IBPAT's insistence, asbestos and the mixing of such in drywall compounds has been virtually eliminated—a practice that has been killing workers for more than 25 years. Chromates are being removed from paints; better respirators are being developed to curb exposure to killing dusts; workers handling asbestos, from construction sites to automobile plants, have had their lives lengthened by the precautions resulting from his studies.

The first health alert for an occupational hazard—the U.S. government's asbestos alert—is based largely on Dr. Selikoff's work. In this effort, he has been almost alone in asking not only what the problem is, but also in doing almost all the work on how to reduce the exposures and how to treat sick workers for whom OSHA standards are too late.

As still another example of his dedication to the health and welfare of workers, Dr. Selikoff has also spent the past few years examining and attempting to correct the asbestos problem facing thousands of workers at the Groton, Conn., Shipyard of the General Dynamics Corporation.

"The time is long overdue for the American labor movement to recognize that science and scientists are important allies of working people as they fight against disease and death. No one scientist has done more for the American worker in this decade than Dr. Irving Selikoff. I respectfully urge your distinguished committee to review his contributions, of which I have only scratched the surface, and carefully consider this nomination of Dr. Selikoff for the Murray-Green Award as the labor movement's thank you to an individual who is certainly improving the health and welfare of people everywhere."

(General President Rafferty from the conclusion of a letter nominating Dr. Irving Selikoff for the Murray-Green Award.)

Rafferty and Dr. Selikoff

