

22 Twenty-third Annual Safety Congress—National Safety Council

WHEREAS, there is such pressing need for prompt executive action to put these measures into effect and stop these needless tragedies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the National Safety Council respectfully urges the President of the United States to call the Governors of the several States into conference as early in the new year as practicable, to lay before them the seriousness of the situation, the remedies which have been developed for correcting these conditions and the necessity for prompt and united action in all the States to adopt and more energetically carry on an effective program for the protection of life and limb on our streets and highways.

By formal motion, and by a rising vote, the entire audience of delegates and guests approved this action of the Council Executive Committee.

Following this, Lt.-Col. Reninger read the following letter received from the President of the United States:

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 27, 1934

My dear Mr. Long:

I wish to extend to the members of the National Safety Council, in session at the twenty-third Annual Safety Conference, my most cordial greetings and my heartiest good wishes for the success of your endeavors.

The fact that you are concerning yourselves with saving life, that you are keeping in view human values and personal security commends your program to the entire country.

I am greatly impressed and pleased with the constructive steps already taken toward the elimination of accidents, especially highway disasters, which, because avoidable, are doubly tragic. This is a problem which we must attack with the utmost energy and persistence. Ultimately we may expect to reach the solution of highway safety, provided complete cooperation on the part of all citizens is given to concerted efforts of groups such as yours. At present the rising toll of fatalities on roads and city thoroughfares indicates in a manner all too grim that we are still far from the goal.

American automotive developments and our unequalled system of highway communications which have given signal contributions to our convenience, pleasure, and commerce, must not be permitted to devolve into instruments of death and disaster.

I assure you of my keen personal interest in your efforts and commend your splendid program to induce cooperation among every citizen in our nation with the movement looking to the prevention of needless fatalities—a drain upon our most precious natural resource which must be ended.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

Mr. John E. Long,  
President, National Safety Council,  
c/o Cleveland Hotel,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

President John E. Long then arose and introduced Mr. Harold G. Hoffman, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of New Jersey, who presided as Toastmaster. His witty introduction of the speaker of the evening, Dr. John L. Davis, of New York City, was highly appreciated by the big audience; and was only surpassed, perhaps, by the brilliant address of Dr. Davis, himself.

Dr. Davis was listed in the program to speak on "The Spirit of America." Despite this handicap, he seized the opportunity to present a highly popular monologue—so popular in fact that his success mounted steadily throughout the evening; and it was readily agreed, after an hilarious session, that no banquet of the Council had approached this for many a year.

ADJOURNMENT

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL SAFETY CONGRESS  
NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL



## Dust in Industry

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

October 5, 1934

The session devoted to a discussion of Dust in Industry was called to order by Dr. E. C. Meiter, Director, Industrial Hygiene Laboratory, Employers Mutual Liability Insurance Co., Milwaukee, who presided. Dr. Meiter briefly welcomed the delegates and then introduced the first speaker.

### Types of Dust That Cause Occupational Diseases

By LEROY U. GARDNER, M.D.

Director, Saranac Laboratory for the Study of Tuberculosis, of the Edward L. Trudeau Foundation, Saranac Lake, N. Y.

The speaker said in part: Experience has demonstrated that the lung tissues can tolerate very large amounts of most kinds of foreign dust particles without serious interference with function. The lung may be intensely pigmented by colored dusts with no evidence that respiration is impaired. But dusts composed, in whole or in part, of silica have been shown to be dangerous because they stimulate the growth of the connective tissues of the lungs and bring about the formation of scar tissue. This destroys the normal elasticity of the organ which is necessary for respiration and it thickens the delicate membranes so that a free interchange of gases is impeded. Fortunately, these results only follow the prolonged inhalation of very large quantities of silica.

Experiments have demonstrated that the injection of silica into the tissues of animals kills the cells where the substance lodges and excites an inflammation. When healing takes place a very dense and characteristic kind of scar tissue forms. Most non-siliceous dusts produce no inflammation and very little scar. It has been shown that such changes do not follow the injection of silica unless the particles are very fine, three microns or less in diameter, and unless enough of them localize in one area. With larger particles the rate of reaction is so slow that little change occurs within a year. As a general rule, the finer the particles, the more rapid the cellular response. The reaction to fine silica begins within four or five hours and it continues for a period of years.

If the silica is combined with bases in the form of silicates, it rarely produces such active and progressive changes. The silicate of magnesium, asbestos, does cause the formation of scar tissue in experimental animals and in the human lung, but most other silicates are not generally recognized as irritating. Recently it has been claimed that a hydrated silicate of aluminum and potassium, called sericite, is responsible for most of the cases of silicosis. This silicate, a transformed feldspar, is often associated with quartz and it has been identified in the lungs of persons suf-