

**INDUSTRIAL
UNION
DEPARTMENT
AFL-CIO**



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Jacob Clayman, *President-Secretary-Treasurer*

December 21, 1978

Mr. Hank Wilson
International Brotherhood of Painters and
Allied Trades of the U.S. and Canada
1750 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

NOTED BY J. CLAYMAN DID
NOT COME FROM PPG FILES

Dear Hank:

This is in response to your request for personal information on
Dr. Selikoff, for his nomination for the Murray-Green Award.

The vital statistics are in Who's Who. This is information in
addition to the official biography.

Irv has made outstanding contributions in these fields: contagious
disease-control, health care management and environmental medicine.

Contagious Disease

As a specialist in pulmonary medicine, 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 bring-
ing the "white plague" under control. TB at that time was the number one
occupational disease, particularly prevalent in the garment trades.

Health Care Management

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He founded the Paterson Clinic, one of the earliest HMO proto-
types. 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 the clinic, but
retains week-end privileges. "Week-end privileges"? Yes, on Saturdays
and Sundays he spends his "free" time examining and treating workers from
all over the world - at no charge. Recently 38 flint glass workers from

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Port Allen, Pa. chartered a plane and flew in for a Sunday examination because of their asbestos exposures. Nothing unusual to find him doing this. 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 N.Y.C. by the labor movement. World-wide, he has become the workers' doctor in New Foundland, Copperopolis (Calif.), Indianapolis - wherever we ask him to go!

Environmental Medicine

In this field he is best known. His work on the hazards of asbestos has made him the best known doctor in occupational health. But his work on lead, vinyl chloride, dyes, cotton dust, and other contaminants are the most substantive basis for the new OSHA standards and proposed standards, with little recognition.

The first health alert for an occupational hazard - Califano's asbestos alert - is based largely on his 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!

These are some of my thoughts. I conclude by pointing out that the labor movement has never said "Thank You." Isn't it about time?

Best,



Sheldon W. Samuels, Director
Health, Safety and Environment

SWS:pcs
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cc: Jacob Clayman
George Parker ✓

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