

11-11-69 00 Lawn

There was a heavy security detail, and the 2,500 invited guests were cordoned off on the hospital property. Several hundred others, who formed the bulk of the anti-Nixon demonstration, gathered on 14th Street before the Dade County Public Safety Department building facing the hospital.

The demonstrators, who received the permission of the police to picket, were an assortment of dissidents—senior

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him with a public forum.

Mr. Jaworski conceded in his letter that it was possible to return indictments in the main Watergate case without obtaining further information. This case involves the June 17, 1972, break-in at the Democratic national headquarters at the Watergate complex and the subsequent White House cover-up.

However, he emphasized, "The material is important to a complete and thorough investigation and may contain evi-

**Continued on Page 12, Column 4**

## Liver Cancer Alert Declared to Protect Plastics Workers

**By JANE E. BRODY**

As physician for the B.F. Goodrich chemical plant in Louisville, Ky., Dr. John L. Creech Jr. examines all employees returning to work after an illness. He was struck recently by the large number of serious liver ailments among the workers, compared with patients he saw in his private surgical practice.

Dr. Creech searched his memory and worker records and discovered that in the last five years four employees had died of angiosarcoma of the liver, an extremely rare cancer. All the affected workers, he found, were directly involved in the production of polyvinyl chloride from vinyl chloride, a gaseous organic chemical known to damage the liver at high concentrations.

The doctor suspected a relationship between this chemical and the illnesses he was seeing in the workers. His suspicions have led the Government to declare an "occupational-health" emergency and seek ways to protect workers. They have also spurred extensive studies by

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# Kidnapping View

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"In the first place," he said, "we don't know where she is. In the second place, a statement like that is an antagonistic one that I don't think has any place in the negotiations we're trying to conduct out here."

"And to make a statement that you're going to bust in and shoot the place up from Washington I believe is damn near irresponsible," Mr. Hearst told a news conference on the lawn of his home here.

A tape recording containing preliminary ransom demands was received by the Hearsts and was broadcast Tuesday. In it, Miss Hearst, a 19-year-old student at the University of California, in a message to her father said, "It's really up to you to make sure that these

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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, BEN, from your  
Friends at the Restaurant. - Advi.

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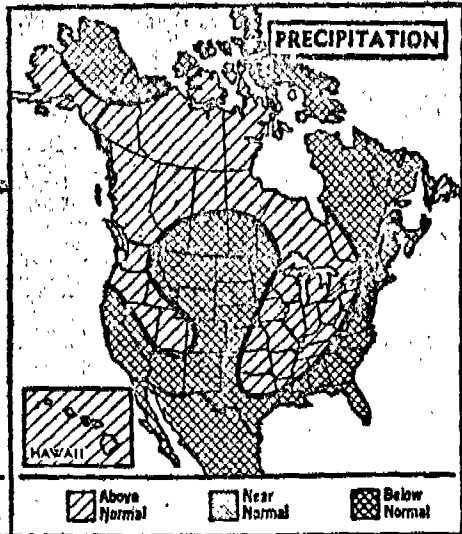
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## Vinyl Chloride

ASI 000017664

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# January to Mid-March Alert Is Declared for Plastics Workers



The New York Times/Feb. 15, 1974

...lled by the National Weather Service, show from normal temperatures and from normal this period for five key cities are as follows: 33° San Francisco, 52.4; Anchorage, 21.5.

fact help prison- ing prison terms. says it cannot pro- imate of either the money it has spent ber of projects it m behavior modifi- for such info ma- Times two weeks wered by the gen- y with a computer some 400 projects "might" somehow d to behavior re- preliminary review l-out, as well as of

some grant applications and re- ports on other projects specifi- cally identified by The Times for L.E.A.A., it was possible to pinpoint at least about \$1.5- million spent on projects in- volving behavior modification. Asked how the agency would halt currently operating proj- ects covered by the ban when it did not know what those projects were, a spokesman said that "some of the details have to be worked" but that there would be a "careful screening" by agency head- quarters here and by its re- gional offices.

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8  
ederal, industry and other scientists to define the cause of the problem and how extensive it may be.  
Vinyl chloride, a simple mole- cule of carbon, hydrogen and chlorine, is the foundation for much of the modern plastics in- dustry. Large numbers of vinyl chloride molecules can be joined to form a polymer, a chemical chain resembling a beaded neck- lace.

## Production Forces

Some 6,500 workers in 51 American plants and many more thousands of European workers are involved in the production of vinyl chloride or polyvinyl chloride, a white powdery chemical resembling sugar.

In addition, tens of thousands of American workers partici- pate in the conversion of these raw materials, vinyl chloride and polyvinyl chloride, into countless products, including paints, construction pipes, fur- niture, upholstery, draperies, wall coverings, floor tiles, table cloths, toys, clothing, footwear, food packages, garden hoses, phonograph records, dentures, bottles and pharmaceutical products. In turn, hundreds of millions of consumers in every industrialized society are ex- posed to these products.

Thus, when Goodrich officials conveyed Dr. Creech's observa- tions to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health three weeks ago, the situation was regarded as "a serious emergency to be im- mediately and fully investigat- ed," Dr. Marcus M. Key, di- rector of the institute, told a

meeting of labor and manage- ment in Cleveland this week.

Accordingly, the institute, as well as Goodrich and the Manu- facturing Chemists Association, has begun intensive studies of thousands of workers — past and present, dead and alive — and a variety of laboratory ani- mals to determine the nature, extent and cause of illness among vinyl chloride workers.

## Emergency Action

Although these studies will take many months, and in some cases years, to complete, at a hearing today in Washington the institute will recommend emergency corrective action to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which is considering new regulations to protect workers exposed to vinyl chloride.

The current Federal standard allows workers to breathe as much as 500 parts of vinyl chloride per million parts of air, a level that readily causes liver damage in animals, ac- cording to a study published 13 years ago by a Dow Chemi- cal Company scientist. The Government did not act upon this finding. Several com- panies, however, including Goodrich, stiffened their plant standard to 50 parts per mil- lion, one-tenth the permitted level.

However, one study showed that at certain points of the polyvinyl chloride operation workers may be temporarily ex- posed to vinyl chloride levels of up to 1,500 parts per million. In Europe, where 75 per cent of the world's supply of vinyl chloride is produced, signs of liver disease have been found in a large percentage of ex- posed workers, according to foreign language reports dating to the early nineteen sixties.

## Impact of Italian Report

But it took a report in 1970 of an Italian laboratory experi- ment to shake up the vinyl chloride industry. Rats exposed to very high levels of the chemi- cal developed cancers of the skin and lungs.

This prompted the European industry to begin its own stud- ies, one of which has report- edly resulted in angiosarcoma of the liver in rats exposed to low levels of vinyl chloride — lower than the United States standard of 500 parts per mil- lion.

Prof. Cesare Maltoni of the University of Bologna, who did the experiment, is expected to describe his results to the hear- ing in Washington today.

"With this finding, we have come full circle," Dr. Irving J. Selikoff remarked at the Cleve- land meeting. "We have can- cer in the vinyl chloride workers and apparently the identical tumor has been repro- duced in animals exposed to the chemical," said Dr. Selikoff, who is director of environ- mental medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine here.

Nonetheless, Dr. Selikoff and institute scientists said they were keeping an open mind about the cause of the problem. Some 50 or 60 different chemi- cals, besides vinyl chloride are used in these plants, and any

one of them could turn out to be the culprit, they explained.

It is also possible that some- thing peculiar to the Louisville workers — either now or in the past — accounts for their susceptibility to this rare tumor.

## Doctor's Prediction

However, Dr. Creech, for one, does not think so. "I think when we look we'll find angio- sarcoma of the liver all over the world wherever vinyl chloride is used," he said in a telephone interview. He based his prediction on a previous experience.

A decade ago, he said, he discovered that some of the Louisville workers had a pecu- liar condition in their fingers called acroosteolysis — slow destruction of the bone at the fingertips. Industrywide sur- veys disclosed that this was a fairly common worldwide prob- lem, typically occurring in the workers who cleaned the high- pressure reactor tanks where the conversion of vinyl chloride to polyvinyl chloride takes place.

Subsequent changes in clean- ing practices have virtually eliminated this problem, Dr. Creech said.

The 51-year-old Kentucky- born surgeon added that the liver cancer probably showed up in Louisville first "because we are one of the oldest plants — 1940 — and the workers have been exposed longer to vinyl chloride." He said recognition of the problem was aided by the fact that the same physi- cian saw all the cases.

"But had the cancer been a more common one, such as lung cancer, I probably would not have realized there was any problem in the first place," Dr. Creech said.

Dr. Selikoff noted that the "plastic era — now about 35 years old — is just coming of age in terms of latent period for the onset of disease among exposed persons. He said his interest in the problem extended beyond the workers to the gen- eral public, who may be ex- posed to vinyl chloride that leaches out of finished prod- ucts.

"The workers are the can-aries," he remarked. "They give us hints of what we might find in the population at large."

Accordingly, Dr. Edward Fer- rand of the New York City Environmental Protection Ad- ministration has begun to ana- lyze hundreds of consumer prod- ucts for vinyl and polyvinyl chloride.

"We don't know if these find- ings will have any relevance to the public," Dr. Ferrand com- mented, "but we don't want to be caught without information if something turns up."

It is this sort of prophetic approach that Dr. Selikoff would like the institute to adopt. "The N.I.O.S.H. budget and staff are not as large as they should be," he told the Cleveland meeting. "The insti- tute has been doing firefight- ing and doing it well, but it shouldn't only be doing fire- fighting. It should be able to anticipate crises and head them off before they occur."

## er Reports and Forecast

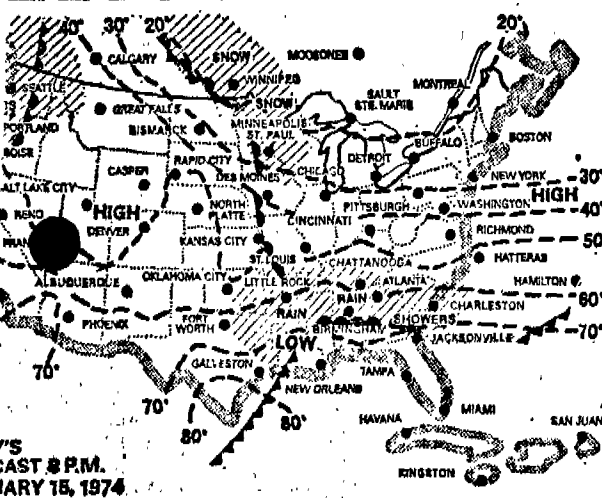


Figure beside Station.

Circle temperature. Cold front: a boundary between cold air and warmer air, under which the colder air pushes like a wedge, usually south and east.

Warm front: a boundary between warm air and a retreating wedge of colder air over which the warm air is forced as it advances, usually north and east.

Occluded front: a line along which warm air was lifted by opposing wedges of cold air, often causing precipitation.

Shaded areas indicate precipitation.

Dashed lines show forecast afternoon maximum temperatures.

Isobars are lines (solid black) of equal barometric pressure (in inches), forming air-flow patterns.

Winds are counterclockwise toward the center of low-pressure systems, clockwise outward from high-pressure areas. Pres- sure systems usually move east.

Legend: CLOUDY, RAIN, SNOW, SLEET, HAIL, FOG, MIST, THUNDER, TROPICAL STORM, HURRICANE.

WIND SCALE: mph per hour.

WIND DIRECTION: mph per hour.

WIND SPEED: mph per hour.

WIND DIRECTION: mph per hour.

WIND SPEED: mph per hour.

WIND DIRECTION: mph per hour.

## CLASSIFIED

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