FILE NAME: Asbestos Cement Pipe and Sheet (ACPS)

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John Gordon:

Comments on G. Major "Substance" Re Mr. Van Emden

p.1 #1 -- What data is there to support the claim that mesotheliomas in chrysotile-exposed miners, millers, and mfg. plant workers was "so much higher than that experienced by carpenters who used A-C"...?

p. 3 #3 -- longtime use of A-C products w/o reported disease proves nothing as to the products' safety. T&N, industry leader, wrote that they had no knowledge of asbestosis in insulators despite 35 years of employment of thousands of insulators (1945 letter to Factory Dept.). This proves you can miss anything if you don't look for it!

p. 5 #8 -- I'd like to see this ref., I haven't.

p. 11 #23 -- I don't think that's a reasonable assumption, check original ref. on chrysotile std. in Ann Occup Hyg 1968 or 1969. They just said they had no idea what levels would be necessary to protect workers from cancer.

p. 13 #25 top -- low meso. rates in chrysotile miners and millers doesn't disprove the high death rates reported by Selikoff in insulators using chrysotile and a little amosite -- fiber size distribution and amount of respirable sized fiber may have been greater in the insulators' (and A-C sheet cutters' exposures).

#26 -- what data that hand sawing is safe? ILO 1972 says 31 f/cc for hand sawing incombustible boards made with asbestos (Cross)...and why wouldn't people be at risk of asbestosis from power sawing A-C sheets (Cross: 100 f/cc and above for that)

p. 14 $27 -- Major's insertion of factories in the quote from D Gordon is in no way implied by the original.

p. 15 #30 -- IARC monograph on asbestos (1977) says:

"there is no scientific documentation that (LCa and A'sis) are interrelated oin any way other than they constitute disease outcomes that may b associated with exposure to Asb, as a common environmental factor." P. 75

p. 18 #41 -- don't see how he infers that asb. sheeting is millboard and not asbestos cement -- is there data on the relative amounts of these products used in Australia in the 1950s?

p. 21 #50 -- 5 mppcf applied to total dust from processes involving asbestos -- see latest letters in Am J Ind Med May 1993.

p. 22 #52 -- Selikoff actually warned about risk of "carpenters" in his 1964 JAMA paper, evidently referring mainly to bystander

exposure from insulation work.

p. 24 # 56 -- do we have data even now on the exposures created by A-C sheet cutting as in Australia, and photographic evidence of these exposures' visual appearance?

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With respect to the case against Hardie in New Zealand, an eminent Swedish doctor was on the scene in the 1980s in NZ and is mentioned in documents on asbestos I just received from Tim Frederickson: Tord Kjellstrom, now with WHO in Geneva (tel. 791-3760, fax 791-0746. Address: Div. Occ. Health, WHO, 1211 Geneva 27.

I am also interested in knowing when Hardies did the following things in Australia and NZ, respectively: put warnings on A-C products, and substitute asbestos in same. I suspect they were slower in taking action in NZ, as they reportedly were in other countries (Far Eastern Economic Review, 1979)

Sending IARC '73 and T+N 1945 by mail.

D.C.