PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

CAP-1530

November 9, 1971

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY - MOUNT SINAI PRESS CONFERENCE

On Friday, November 5, 1971, I attended a press conference at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Cancer Society. The purpose of the press conference was to announce the launching of a study of occupational exposure to chemical and physical substances that may play a role in causing cancer. The program, which will be funded by the American Cancer Society, will be run by Dr. Irving Selikoff, and will be budgeted at approximately one million dollars per year.

On the panel at the press conference were Dr. Selikoff, Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond of the American Cancer Society; Al Hutchenson of the Asbestos Workers Union; two union representatives from the printing trades, and a representative from the AFL/CIO. The program will consist of a series of epidemiological studies of workers exposed to various substances that are suspected of causing cancer. Priority in the program will be given to those substances which also occur in the ambient air. The theory is that if the workmen who are exposed to these substances have a higher than normal death rate, then more care should be taken to prevent the emissions of those substances into the atmosphere. On the other hand, if it is found that increased death rates do not occur among these workmen, then one can assume that the presence of those substances in the community air is of no concern.

Each of the panel members made a brief statement which was then followed by a question and answer period. In his statement, Dr. Selikoff said that most cancers come from exposure to toxic substances in the environment.

Dr. Hammond said that fifty million workemen in the U.S. are exposed to potentially carcinogenic dusts, fumes and other substances in their work. He also said that many workmen are exposed to a number of cancer causing agents in their work and that it will be difficult to isolate those substances that do the most harm.

Mr. Hutchenson started off his comments by warning that substitutes used for asbestos may be just as hazardous as asbestos. He then went on to launch a vitriolic attack on the use of fibrous glass in ducts. He said there was no

doubt that fibrous glass was released in large quantities from ducts and that one of the aims of the program should be to have regulations passed that would place the insulation on the outside of the ducts where it properly belongs.

In the question and answer period, Dr. Selikoff was asked if management was going to cooperate in the study. He commented that he hoped industry would cooperate at a later date. He used Johns-Manville as an example of a company that had cooperated with a union in a health program.

Dr. Hammond said that fibrous glass would be looked at as part of this program. He said they are looking for a large, long term exposure group to study. Dr. Selikoff was then asked: Was fibrous glass a proven cancer causing agent in humans? He replied: "No, however, we should be concerned with any alien substance that gets into the lungs." Selikoff also said that researchers had been able to produce cancer in animals using fibrous glass, but warned that this research cannot in any way be translated to human experience.

Hammond mentioned that they are planning to investigate the possibility that asbestos may cause ovarian cancer in women.

Hutchenson, in response to a question regarding the length of time his people have been working with hazardous materials, said that his union has been complaining about health conditions for their workers for more than fifty years. He then went on to say that they have been complaining about fibrous glass for ten to twelve years. He used two examples to reinforce his position on duct lining. He said that a short time ago he found a piece of fibrous glass on his plate in a restaurant which he claimed came from a duct in the restaurant. Hutchenson also claimed that, when he was in the hospital, fibrous glass from duct lining accumulated on a cabinet in his room to a thickness of 1/4" in three weeks. He said that the dust consisted entirely of fibrous glass.

Jack Novak, who was also there though not a member of the panel, commented that some asbestos workers at a Con Edison job in the city were applying mineral wool blankets. The other trades at the job site walked off because they were afraid of getting fibrous glass in their lungs. Novak also said that he learned that a hospital in Valhalla, New York, was forced to close down an entire floor of operating rooms because of the large amounts of fibrous glass being emitted into the rooms from a duct system.

More

There was no indication given at the press conference precisely which substances would be studied first under the program, when such studies would begin, or when results could be expected.

Attached you will find a copy of the press release from the conference, and also copies of stories that appeared in the NEW YORK TIMES and the WALL STREET JOURNAL.

M. M. Swetonic

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
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A.M. PAPERS, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1971

The AFL-CIO has called on the Labor Department to take emergency action to head off a massive epidemic of cancer among workers exposed to asbestos dust.

In a letter to Labor Secretary James D. Hodgson, George H. R. Taylor, executive secretary of the AFL-CIO Standing Committee on Safety and Occupational Health, submitted a study showing that growing use of asbestos in industry has brought "appallingly high" rates of cancer among the five million workers involved.

The study was prepared by Dr. Irving J. Selikoff and the staff of the Mount Sinai Medical School, the AFL-CIO and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Asbestos Hazard of the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department.

It showed that workers exposed to asbestos dust suffer triple the incidence of all kinds of cancer as workers in general and six times the normal rate of lung cancer.

"Only drastic and immediate action will contain and slow the developing incidence and prevalence of death from these diseases," Taylor warned Hodgson. He urged the Secretary to issue an emergency bulletin warning of the danger and requiring employers to take stringent measures to reduce the concentration of asbestos dust in all work places.

He also called on Hodgson to ask the Environmental Protection Agency to consider taking "imminent danger" measures under the Clean Air Act to protect residents near plants where asbestos is used.

Asking Hodgson to meet with labor representatives within 30 days to chart further action, Taylor added: "We are well aware of the difficulty of the tasks before you and pledge our full cooperation."

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