

Blumberg No. 5113
PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
SA-267

SA-267

Asbestos study caught Quebec by surprise

(1975)

By CLAUDE ANPIN
 Findings on health hazards
 Asbestos workers caught
 natural resources depart-
 by surprise, says a highly
 department source.
 A study, conducted by a
 St. Louis Medical School team and
 at March 1, found that 61 per
 of 200 asbestos workers in
 mines with more than 20
 experience have developed

lung abnormalities. Fifty-two per cent
 were found to have asbestosis, a
 sometimes fatal disease caused by
 the inhalation of asbestos fibres.
 Last week, a brief announcement
 from Resources Minister Gilles
 Blais's office said orders would be
 issued for stricter enforcement of ex-
 isting regulations on asbestos fibre
 air pollution in plants.
 The announcement also said a law
 would be drafted to provide stiffer
 fines for offending companies.
 The department source told *the*
 Montreal Star: "Although we
 had been inspecting these sites (as-
 bestosis mines and mills) on a fairly
 regular basis, we hadn't perhaps
 placed as much emphasis on the moni-
 tor as we should have."
 He added that the department is
 responsible for safety inspections at
 650 mining operations across the
 province and only has 10 inspectors

to do the job.
 "It would take two months to take
 proper air samples in one large mill
 operated by the Asbestos Corp. in
 Thetford Mines. So you can see the
 enormity of our task."
 Safety has been a major issue in
 contract talks between the asbestos
 companies and workers, who went on
 strike early yesterday.
 "We don't dare talk because we
 could be accused of supporting either
 one of the two parties," the resources
 department official said prior to the
 strike. "So we're gathering all the
 facts and we'll draft new legislation
 based on our findings."
 "There's little doubt, however, that
 the Mount Sinai report is emerging
 as a strong bargaining point in favor
 of the unions," he said.
 Quebec has traditionally based as-
 bestosis mill inspections on U.S. stand-
 See QUENEC, Page A24

DOCUMENTATION

19-3-75
 covered part of a sunken Soviet
 submarine which yielded military se-
 crets with profound national security
 implications. The Los Angeles Times
 confirmed.
 The recovery was the culmination
 of a remarkable six-year intelligence
 effort which involved the building of
 two huge vessels, ostensibly to pl-

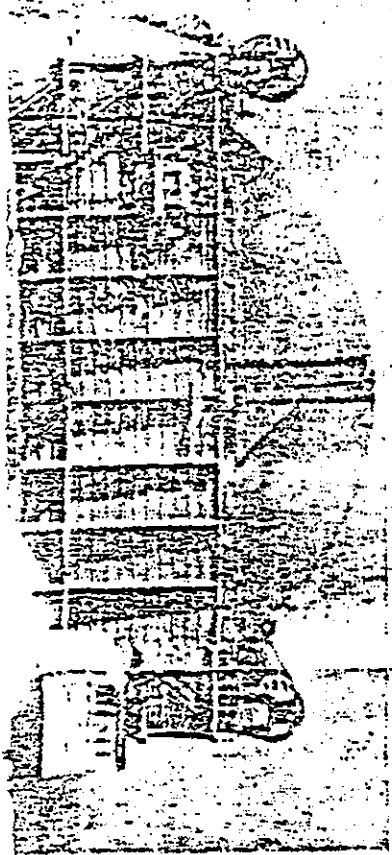
analyze of the recovered wreck-
 age supplied evidence confirming that
 the Russians were arming conven-
 tional underwater craft with P.O.L.A.R.I.S.
 type nuclear missiles and also with
 nuclear-tipped torpedoes.
 It had not been proved until the
 recovery last year that this class of
 submarine was carrying missiles of

canoe for the Strategic Arms Limita-
 tions Talks.
 What CIA agents learned also had
 them to believe they were on the
 verge of breaching the Russian code,
 long a mystery to U.S. cryptogra-
 phers.
 Fewer than 10 bodies were re-
 covered from the Soviet vessel. They

played during the files which were
 recorded on videotape and sound.
 The Times early last month was
 the first to report that the CIA, using
 a revolutionary ocean mining craft
 purportedly owned by Howard
 Hughes, had recovered a Russian
 submarine.
 But, in the interest of national se-

curable intelligence coups in Amer-
 ican military history.
 The Times is publishing the story
 now because of its partial disclosure
 last night by the New York Times.
 Syndicated columnist Jack Anderson
 gave details on the Mount Broadview
 ing System.
 Anderson said the CIA failed in it

Montreal Star



Bourassa wants political code

By JOHN WILDCUST
 The Star's Quebec Bureau
 QUEBEC — The Bourassa govern-
 ment announced plans yesterday
 to amend the *Loi sur l'accès à l'infor-*
 mation (Access to Information Act).
 The amendments would require
 that the government pay for the cost
 of the legislation.
 Other Liberals have attacked

Opposition skeptic

THE MONTEZUMA STAR, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 1933

Quebec to take tougher asbestos stand

Continued from Page A-1

ards. Offenders could be prosecuted under Quebec Mining Act regulations, but the department official could not recall the last time a firm was prosecuted.

Up until last summer, the acceptable level was five million dust particles per cubic foot of air," he said. "Now, the new norm is five fibres of the millions per cubic centimetre of air."

Quebec has not fully adopted the new norm in its inspections because of problems with the pollution counts.

Dr. J. Corbett MacDonald, of McGill University's department of epidemiology and health, said:

"There is a definite problem... but it is not because scientists can't measure the number of fibres in a cubic centimetre of air."

"The difficulty is in obtaining repeatable answers when you measure fibres. Answers are more repeatable when you measure dust particles."

Inspectors' findings are based on overall readings. In some parts of a mill or mine dust levels may be fairly constant but asbestos fibre pollution can vary greatly from one phase of the operation to another.

When asbestos-bearing rock—the best of which is only seven per cent asbestos—is mined, there may be a high concentration of dust but a low fibre pollution level.

In the refining process, dust levels may remain fairly constant but fibre pollution may increase greatly, reach-

ing a peak when the asbestos is bagged.

"This makes it hard to measure fibres because their numbers vary from one operation to another and from one floor of a mill to the next," said MacDonald.

Danger

He said the five-micron size is used in the standards because it is believed to be the most dangerous size.

"Our findings so far indicate that large and small fibres are less harmful than middle-sized ones measuring five microns. The larger fibres are too big to penetrate the lung tissue, while the very small ones have less black and are thus less harmful."

The resources department official said Quebec feels the U.S. standard of five fibres per cubic centimetre is adequate because of the limited refining done here. Most of our asbestos is exported for processing and it is in the processing stages that dangerous five-micron fibres are most prevalent. England, he said, processes asbestos into textiles and it adheres to a standard of only two fibres of five microns per cubic centimetre, because of workers' constant contact with fibres of this size.

"In Quebec we've also caught between wanting to enforce the kind of standards they have in England and trying to be realistic so that we don't force the closure of our mills."

"The industry has told us that if we want to close two fibres, they'll have to shut down their mills which

would have to be practically torn down to accommodate proper air purifiers."

"They've agreed, however, to install the latest equipment in any new plants they build."

"In the past we felt that the law shouldn't be too stiff or else we would have discouraged companies from opening new asbestos processing mills here."

He added that the planned legislation will give companies a period of five years to reduce asbestos fibre pollution to the legal minimum. "The U.S. has tough laws which are forcing companies to close plants and reopen them in Mexico and Tolwam. There were only two such plants in Mexico in 1910 and now there are 35."

Masks

An immediate solution to the problem, he said, would be for workers to wear masks "but the guys don't like masks because they're uncomfortable."

The companies tried for years to make the workers wear masks "but they ended up wearing them around their necks," the official said.

"The government wouldn't like to have to force them by law to wear masks but it's possible we may have to do it if we find that there's little chance in the short term of cleaning up their environment because of the heavy costs involved."

The official said tests carried out by the resources department in the Ford

Mines in recent months showed readings of 5.3 to six fibres per cubic centimetre of air.

"This is a far cry from the 50 to 60 fibres the unions have been claiming. But our readings were averages of air samples taken at various spots in the mills—not just readings obtained, for example, directly over bags being filled under pressure with asbestos."

While the department has tried in the past to enforce U.S. standards of five million dust particles per cubic foot, he said, the enforcement in some cases may have been lax because of the companies' stand that they would have to close down their mills if the government made it tougher on them.

"But in the light of these latest findings, we'll have to stiffen our laws and enforce them more rigorously. We'll also have to hire more inspectors and those ridiculous fines of \$25 a day will have to be beefed up considerably."

Despite recent union concern about air pollution in the Ford Mines plant, he said, "there remains the undisputed fact that they couldn't have considered the situation all that bad because since 1908 they only lodged two official complaints with our department."

Another government body currently taking a closer look at the province's asbestos mills is Dr. Victor Goldblom's environment department.

the problem appear more serious than we were previously led to believe."

"When I first became minister of the environment, in 1930, it wasn't certain whether I would be responsible for this area of jurisdiction so went to the asbestos producing area anyway and I met the medical people hired by the companies."

"They assured me that there has been a reduction in the frequency of the main diseases attributed to asbestos. Each decade had shown improvement and I'm sure there is some truth to this but at the same time, it is now evident that one of the critical factors in diseases related to asbestos is the length of exposure."

"The final report shows that the measures taken by the company clinic delayed the phenomenon but it is still occurring after long exposure. And this shows we haven't yet learned how to protect the worker completely."

Goldblom added that earlier complaints of dangerous asbestos fibre levels in the drinking water of the Ford Mines proved unfounded following tests by his department.

"This was a bit of a scare but early evaluations show that there is no higher incidence of stomach cancer which would have been the case had the water contained high levels of asbestos."

He added that his department is sending special teams to study the quality of the air in the asbestos plants in co-operation with experts from the resources department.

Asbestos clinic let sick men wait

By JOSH FREED

THEFTORD MINES — Doctors who operated a clinic for the asbestos companies here have admitted they did not always inform workers suffering from asbestosis of the full extent of their illness.

In addition, they often permitted "asbestos" employees to continue working in areas dangerous to their health rather than referring them to the Workmen's Compensation Board.

The clinic records were subject to government inspection but until 1972, the inspector was Dr. Paul Cartier, the same man employed by the companies from 1910 until last year to head their clinic.

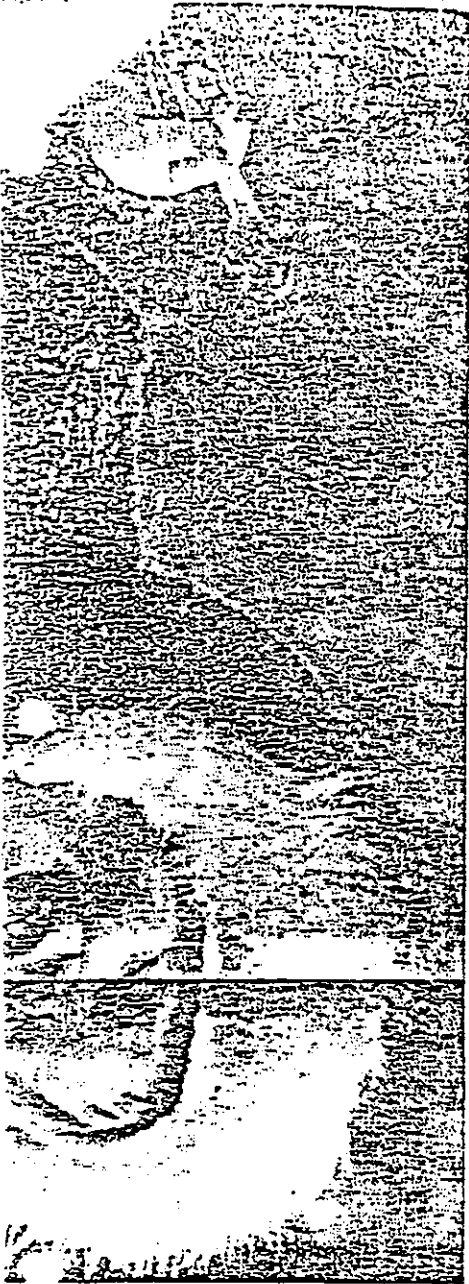
Cartier yesterday told The Montreal Star he had permitted sick workers to remain in the mines and mills years after he had observed symptoms of asbestosis "because the men didn't want to be reported ill and be transferred to lower paying jobs."

Cartier said he did this because he thought "it was in the best interest of the workers" and was not, as union leaders have claimed, told to do it by his employers in order to save them compensation settlements.

The companies also deny any collusion. W. W. Dugher, president of Asbestos Corp., largest of the four Theftford Mines asbestos companies, says he knew "little or nothing of how the clinic operated."

"We just set up the clinic because the government asked us to, but we stayed at arm's distance from it and never interfered with its operation. We just paid the bills."

and degree of illness. At present, 100 workers are in the clinic for asbestos-related lung to figures supplied by the Quebec Federation of labor organizations. Asbestos workers' union See MAN, Page



Chief doctor says he tried 'to be human'

By CLAUDE ALPIN

The central figure in the current controversy surrounding lawsuits faced by asbestos workers in Theftford Mines is a 66-year-old doctor whose policy was "to do as much good for the workers as possible without harming them."

Dr. Paul Cartier, who operated on this principle when he was in charge of the company's clinic, was checked by workers for possible asbestos-related

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lished a system of inspection of the 197 of the Quebec Ministry of the Environment, which required a government for "to examine company client records and issue annual

However, because they are farther from the Eastern Seaboard, the region including Gaspe,

When he examined work was a company document would "change hats" and their test results as a government representative, deciding who would receive their mines leases and which would be

them and subsequently received for compensation.

Carter continued to hold conflicting posts until 1952 at least, according to Dr. Bertram Lemire, a long-time workmen's pension commissioner, he was replaced by Philippe Duval, because he was not really proper that a man should work for the "rent."

played, there was nothing lucky about the time he was called. "I was in the middle of a Hellmare maintenance. The client needed a good pneumologist (Cattell) had an international talent."