must contact the local union officials before he visits a plant and must take the local's appointed representative with him during his tour of the plant.

In addition, the factory inspectors in the Province of Ontario carry a warrant with them and, if they are opposed by the employer, the inspector uses the telephone to call the local magistrate. A policeman is dispatched to the plant to serve the warrant on the person obstructing the inspection and has the person removed from the premises until the inspection is completed.

Moderator: Is there a standard clearing house that records a complete list of radiation exposures to workers handling radioactive materials?

Dr. Van Atta: Not in the United States, unfortunately. There was a bill introduced in the last Congress, but Congress did not act on it. We have high hopes that it will be handled during the next Congress, although we understand that there is considerable opposition to this bill from management sources.

Moderator: How can we get management to correct unsafe conditions promptly?

Mr. Dowling: I can only give you an illustration of what happened in the city of Hamilton, Ontario. I was conducting seminars in Hamilton when one of the crane operators in the plant called me at my home. He informed me that the wheels on the crane had become so worn that the electric shoes that pick up the electricity had dropped to where they were striking stud bolts, causing them to fall to the floor below. I called the shop foreman and he admitted that the condition was unsafe.

I then phoned the Director of the Ontario Industrial Safety Branch and he sent an inspector within 35 minutes. The inspector was in the plant for 10 minutes. He shut down the entire plant. Management was then obligated to bring in a contractor to replace the crane wheels. The plant was shut down for two shifts.

Mr. Greene: We have a way of getting things done also; however, it is sometimes rather late. When we receive a complaint we send an inspector to the location. Usually the condition existed for some time before we receive the complaint. It has bothered the worker, and he has probably complained to various people but he doesn't contact us until the condition gets serious.

Mr. Gold: I think it must be apparent that the answer to this question depends in a large measure on the geographic area in which the plant is located. Some states have fine laws which will take care of these things if you push them. However, other states are quite lax and backward.

Mr. Kumpel: If you believe you are working in a hazardous situation and feel morally certain that you are right in your belief, then you should refuse to work on such operations until they can be examined by proper and qualified authorities to determine if the conditions need correcting.

Mr. Burch: I endorse what John says, but I would like to add that union strength varies geographically. A lot will depend upon the knowledge and guts of the local business agents.

Moderator: What are the effects of asbestos dust?

Dr. Van Atta: Breathing excessive amounts of asbestos dust over a period of 25 to 35 years, depending upon the amount and the person, will result in shortness of breath, circulatory and heart problems, and the person will probably die of heart failure. In addition, you will probably get no assistance from workmen's compensation, if you are under most jurisdictions. That is the classical picture of asbestosis. But, in the last few years, we are discovering that asbestos is a rather prolific producer of a variety of cancers of the lung and surrounding tissues. Asbestos is a skinny little crystal, like a needle, and it works into the tissues and promotes cancers.

One variety is appearing in rather substantial numbers among asbestos workers—it has always been there, but now it is beginning to be diagnosed. This is a subject about which we don't know nearly as much as we thought we did 20 years ago. I might say that excessive amounts of asbestos dust is only enough to constitute a slight haze in the air. The situations in which asbestos is used are highly deserving of competent professional assessment.

Moderator: How can unions get such professional assessment in cases where they feel the plant hygienist or medical personnel are not competent?