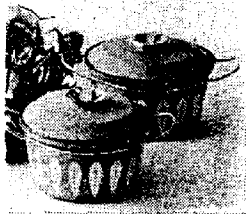


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Vinyl Chloride Exposure Limit Is Opposed by Plastics Industry

By JANE E. BRODY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 25 — Representatives of the plastics industry pressed today for a relaxation of proposed Federal rules governing worker exposure to vinyl chloride, a chemical that has been linked to 21 cases of a rare, fatal liver cancer.

Industry spokesmen said that the proposed standard was medically unnecessary, technologically unfeasible and would lead to the loss of as many as 2.2 million jobs.

At the opening of what is expected to be a long Labor Department hearing on the proposed new standard of no exposure to detectable levels of the widely used chemical, industry spokesmen clashed with representatives of labor and Government and university scientists who testified that even stricter standards than those proposed must be implemented to protect the health of hundreds of thousands of American workers.

The debate today illustrated the difficulties faced by the Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration in protecting workers in the face of industry opposition. Until the new vinyl chloride standard was proposed last month, the three-year history of Administration action has leaned toward capitulation to industry demands.

Emergency Limit Set

Currently, the industry is operating under an emergency temporary exposure limit of 50 parts of vinyl chloride per million parts of air, a level that has been shown to cause angiosarcoma, a liver cancer, in rats and mice in studies conducted by industry and university scientists.

Although scientists from the National Cancer Institute testified that there was no known safe level of a cancer-causing agent, the Society of the Plastics Industry proposed in prepared testimony an average daily exposure limit of 25 parts per million a maximum momentary exposure of 40 parts per million, for workers exposed to vinyl chloride in the process of transforming it into polyvinyl chloride.

This standard, according to the industry plan, would be gradually reduced to a daily average of 10 parts per million with maximum exposure of 21 parts per million by October 1976.

Somewhat stricter standards were proposed for workers engaged in the synthesis of vinyl chloride, a sweet-smelling gas. But for those workers who fabricate polyvinyl chloride into any of thousands of consumer and industrial products, the industry said that no vinyl chloride standards should be applied.

Scientists from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health noted, however, that earlier this month two cases of angiosarcoma of the liver were uncovered in employees in fabrication plants in Connecticut.

The plastics industry's position was outlined by Anton Vittone, president of the B. F. Goodrich Chemical Company, where the vinyl chloride cancer risk was first uncovered last January. Mr. Vittone, chairman of the industry's committee of vinyl chloride and polyvinyl chloride producers, said in his prepared statement, "The committee is unanimous in its position that the proposed standard is not technologically feasible and, if adopted, would shut down the industry."

Mr. Vittone said, "There is no data showing that exposure levels as provided for under the emergency standards are not safe or of low degree of risk." He noted further that the rats exposed at 50 parts per million got cancer only after a life span equivalent to 80 years in man.

An industry news release stated that later testimony would show that enforcement of the no-exposure standard could result in an over-all loss of 2.2 million jobs.

Labor representatives decried these statements as "blackmail" that ignores "overwhelming medical evidence." Peter Bommarito, president of the United Rubber Workers Union, said that workers' lives were more important than any product.

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Off to a Runni

BY STANLEY ROSS

Santo Domingo:— This island nation, k many tourist attractions, has blossomed in industrial country with such potential the increase in Gross National Product (12.5% entire world. And now, to launch Dr. Joaquín third term as Constitutional President on "Corporación de Fomento Industrial" (Development Corp.) has announced the expansion of Industrial Free Zones as well as creation of a new industrial park at the port city of H. from the new Shell Refinery, the expansion of the Generating plant, and one of the world's most modern Roll-on, Roll-off container port.

According to Dr. Federico Antun, Secretary and director general of the CFI, the corporation signal the start of Dr. Balaguer's new term in the presently successful "Zona Franca" at de Macoris, a Caribbean port city already the activities of 18 United States, European manufacturers.

Dr. Antun said from 25 to 30 new buildings the newly-opened Free Zone area of some square feet, will be built to specifications of industrialists who wish to take advantage of the willing, industrious, disciplined and eager-to-learn pool—at about the lowest cost level in the world.

Free-Zone firms can enjoy complete exemption from all taxes for as long as 20 years, and can be for long-term, low-cost "Fomento" loans from 12,000 square feet to 66,000 or more to order on short notice, at monthly rents of 10 cents per square foot—with three months' installation and start-up.

"The policy of President Balaguer," said Antun, "is open arms of welcome to all foreign investment which enjoys full protection and encourage."

Another Free Port Zone

Another Free Port Zone will show up at San Cristóbal, 15 miles west of Santo Domingo, with emphasis on stimulation of Agro-Industrial development. The area is famous as the "Breadbasket" and for the excellence of its tables, dozens of varieties of which are exported to the U.S. and Caribbean nations.

A new Free Zone at Puerto Plata will welcome American industry. Dr. Antun said multiple advantages are offered, plus 2½ hours by jet from Puerto Plata to Santo Domingo.

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