FILE NAME: Shipbuilders Council of America (SHIP)

DATE: 1979 Apr 3

DOC#: SHIP018

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Shipbuilders Council RE Dr. Selikoff & Dr. Kilburn Presentations on Shipyard Asbestos Disease at Conference on Mar 29

SAFETY DEPT.

APR 6 1979

Shipbuilders Council of America
600 New Hampshire Ave. N.W. ■ Washington, D.C. 20037 ■ (202) 338-7722

April 3, 1979

To: INDUSTRIAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Subject: Conference on Environmental Asbestos Hazards Held at the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD - March 29, 1979

Dr. Irving Selikoff and Dr. Kilburn of Mount Sinai School of Medicine both spoke on shipyard asbestos disease. Dr. Selikoff used the chest X-rays of the well known case in Quincy, MA where the father, mother and daughter had died of asbestosis. Dr. Kilburn spoke of his studies at a shipyard in Southeastern, CT where 43% of employees examined showed lung abnormalities. This contrasted with his study in the Baltimore, MD area where 86% of those examined showed lung abnormalities.

It was noted from the statistics shown that draftsman who work in offices had the highest incidence rates and laggers among the lowest incidence rates. This would seem to be a contradiction.

Dr. Kilburn used U.S. Maritime Commission Charts which indicated that Maritime Commission shipyards employed two million people during WWII. He estimated that five million people have been exposed to asbestos in the nation's shipyards and that 250,000 employees are presently being exposed at the present time considering high labor turnover rates.

This Conference was attended by several hundred people including the undersigned.

Frank R. Kesterman
Vice President and
Secretary

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