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Cancer Cause

## V. A. Administrator Defends Hospitals

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — The Veterans Administration says recent charges that some of its 146 hospitals suffer from poor care, food and rat infestations are not true and provide an utterly distorted picture of V. A. care.

Donald E. Johnson, V. A. administrator, and other top V. A. officials appeared at a news conference to answer recent charges, in particular those made by Life magazine. A Life article purporting to show rats in the Bronx V. A. hospital suffering from inadequate care in sometimes squalid surroundings.

We know from the mount number of letters and

## Medical News

HOUSTON — (UPI) — Government regulations are essential to controlling the only type of air pollution definitely linked with lung cancer, a New York environmental medicine specialist believes.

Dr. Irving J. Selikoff said asbestos fibers coming from many materials used in the construction industry, pose a "distressing" and often fatal hazard to men who work regularly around them.

Because asbestos is used so extensively in insulation and building materials, he said, its fibers can be found to a lesser degree in the lungs of almost every city dweller.

Selickoff told the 10th International Cancer Congress that by themselves asbestos fibers cause both lung cancer and gastro-intestinal cancer in cigarette smokers.

he said, they apparently learn with smoking byproducts to cause extra deadly results.

"WHERE ASBESTOS can become airborne it should either be controlled or the product should be abandoned," he said. "I believe that government regulation is essential to help the asbestos industry."

Other cancer specialists at the congress said yesterday cigarettes by themselves are an almost certain cause of fatal lung cancer if a smoker goes past the "point of no return."

"We may not have found the specific chemical that does it but there isn't any question but that cigarette smoke does cause cancer" — both in the human and in animals, Dr. Oscar Auerbach of the Veterans Administration Hospital in East Orange, N. J. said.

## Asbestos Branded Cancer Cause

DR. AUERBACH said up to a certain point, which varies among individuals, a smoker can tack his habit and precancerous cells in his lungs will die but after many years of smoking it does no good to quit because cancer will develop anyway, he said.

Dr. John W. Turner of Springfield, Mass., defined the point of no return more precisely. He said cigarette smokers who have consumed 200,000 cigarettes about 30 years of smoking almost certainly will die from lung cancer or tobacco related diseases.

Scientist Aids Doubts

About Transplant Scope KENOSHA, Wis. — (AP) — Society as a whole rather than medical scientists by themselves is doing to have times if the sound of his own voice is kept from his ears.

through organ transplants, a Nobel laureate said Monday. George W. Beadle said it won't be long before chemists can provide genes to improve the quality of life but that the gap between what is technologically possible and what is feasible in terms of desirable effects in human effort is being widened at a frightening rate.

Noise of Waterfalls

Helps Stutterers

LOS ANGELES — (AP) — The hissing of a waterfall is music to a stutterer's ears, the sound that may help him correct his speech defect, researchers say.

Dr. Marvin E. Klen, a psychiatrist from Detroit, says that for some unexpected reason a person will stop stuttering as out of 100 times if the sound of his own voice is kept from his ears.

## Doctor Who Rankled F. D. A. Officials Is Demoted

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration has quietly demoted the man who accused some agency bureaucrats of altering laboratory conclusions which cast doubt on established F. D. A. regulatory policy.

F. D. A. Commissioner Charles C. Edwards reorganized a pathology unit last week making Dr. Howard I. Richardson the acting No. 2 man in a new pathology division. Dr. Richardson had been the F. D. A.'s chief pathologist since 1968.

Edwards installed Dr. Bert J. Vos as acting head of the pathology division, according to an F. D. A. memorandum dated May 19. Dr. Vos, a long time agency official, is a medical doctor but not a pathologist.

Dr. Richardson was brought in to revitalize F. D. A. pathology in part because

of a reputation he gained in the Veterans Administration as a hard-nosed scrapper committed to scientific integrity, knowledgeable F. D. A. officials say.

A memorandum shows that Dr. Richardson has rankled long-time agency officials during the past year as a half with insistent demands for upgrading pathology in the agency. Pathology is the branch of medicine dealing with the causes of tissue injury and death.

A memorandum written by Dr. Richardson Oct. 20, 1969, charged that bureaucrats with limited scientific training, expunged conclusions and recommendations from reports of certain animal experiments. The experiments in question appeared to contradict official agency positions on the safety of some food additives.

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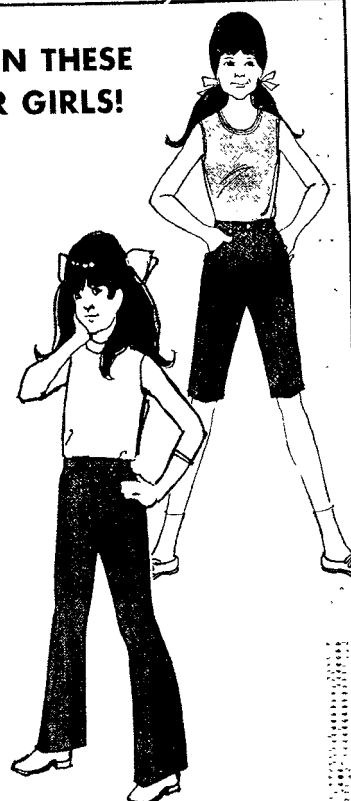
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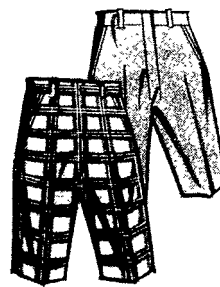


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