FILE NAME: Allied Signal Bendix (ASB)

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BENDIX

September 12, 1966

Mr. Noel Hendry
Canadian Johns Manville Co. Ltd.
Asbestos, Quebec
Canada

Dear Noel

Just to be sure you have a copy, an article that appeared in Chemical Week magazine is inclosed.

So that you'll know that Asbestos is not the only contaminat¢ng, a second article from O.P. & D Reporter assess a share of the blame on trees.

My answer to the problem is: if you have enjoyed a good life while working with asbestos products why not die from it. There's got to be some cause.

Director Of Purchases

E. A. Martin

EAM:MAC
Enc:

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Bitter workers blame Bendix

By Brian Bannon
Star Medical Reporter

Bob Taylor asked: "Who's going to take care of my four children?"

The 36-year-old former Bendix Corp. worker told the Royal Commission on Asbestos he has a disease called asbestosis and no one will hire him since Bendix closed.

"I'm just a time bomb," he said.

Asbestosis is a lung obstruction caused by breathing in particles of asbestos.

Friday's one-day royal commission hearing at Windsor City Hall heard passionate appeals from former Bendix workers and widows.

"These widows shouldn't be sitting here," said former Bendix worker Jack McCann, his voice cracking.

HE CALLED testimony by senior Ontario ministry of labor officials "bullshit."

Minutes before, Assistant Deputy Minister of Labor Ann Robinson said she believed Bendix did not keep detailed records of where each employee worked.

McCann said Bendix supplied such information on many occasions when it was fighting the union over health and safety protection.

McCann, who was health and safety representative for UAW Local 195, said senior ministry inspector Hugh Nelson "sat on his ass" for more than four years without enforcing Bendix's violations of safety laws.

He produced documents showing Nelson signed orders in 1966 to clean up hazards at Bendix and then signed the same orders in 1970.

A NUMBER of UAW witnesses attacked the position taken by Bendix and the ministry that only 10 per cent of Bendix workers were ever exposed to asbestos. Even office workers said they walked through dusty areas of the plants.

Bendix worker Tommy Dunn died three months ago with [illegible]. Workmen's Compensation Board found to be an asbestos-related cancer, although he didn't work in the high-asbestos area.

"This is the story," McCann said, "and people wonder why we don't trust the ministry?"

In the morning, the government also came under fire by witnesses upset about asbestos in Windsor schools.

Government is "the ever-faithful bedmate" of industry when safety issues are concerned, said Jim Brophy, head of the Windsor Occupational Safety and Health Council.

WORKERS had to do their own 18-month survey of the diesel smoke hazard at the Canadian Rock Salt mine, he said.

Unions also faced stiff resistance from management at Wyeth Co. and Bendix over health issues and the govern-

ment supported the companies, witnesses said.

Robinson told the commission her ministry has started a study of deceased Bendix workers to see why they died.

She said she has the full co-operation of the company and union, but UAW officials later told the commission this is the first they have heard of this study and have had no input.

Robinson did not stay to hear the union testimony.

Bendix submitted a written brief to the commission denying it broke any laws and saying it closed its two Windsor plants last year because of economic conditions, not the asbestos controversy.

IT ATTACKED UAW statements as "inaccurate and misleading."

No one from Bendix showed up Friday.

Of 21 claims to the Workmen's Compensation Board for cancer or asbestosis at Bendix, only two have been allowed.