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JOB RELATIONSHIP TO CANCER SOUGHT

**70,000 Workers Studied
—Cigarettes Are Still
Called a Major Cause**

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, Mo.,
April 6 (UPI)—More than 70,-
000 workers are being checked
to see whether their jobs make
them particularly susceptible
to lung cancer.

Those being studied include
cooks, steam-fitters and all
others who work with asbestos;
welders, painters; lead, zinc and
copper miners, workers in the
engine rooms of ships and oper-
ators of overhead conveyors of
molten metals.

The check-up was disclosed
at a seminar on cancer research
at the Elms Hotel here. It is
being sponsored by the Ameri-
can Cancer Society.

Dr. Lester Breslow, epidemi-
ologist of the California State
Department of Health, said he
had questioned more than 70,-
000 workers in those fields by
mail about their health status,
especially in relation to cancer,
and was tabulating the answers
statistically.

Other Cause Sought

The study is scientifically sig-
nificant because whereas some
epidemiologists believe that
they have proved that cigarette
smoking is a major cause of
lung cancer, other scientists
say that cigarette smoking is
not enough in itself to account
for the marked increase in the
incidence of that disease over
the last forty years.

Thus scientific investigators
are checking occupational haz-
ards that might account for
"the substantial minority" of
lung cancer cases caused by
something else, Dr. Breslow
continued.

Lung cancer patients in
thirteen California hospitals
were tabulated by occupation.
These were compared with an
equal number of patients hospi-
talized for diseases other than
cancer.

Among the lung cancer cases
were fourteen welders. Only
two welders were among the
non-cancer group.

The other proportions were:

Cooks 35 cancer cases and 21
non-cancer; molten metals con-
veyors, 5 and 1; steam-fitters
10 and 1; painters 22 and 12;
lead zinc and copper miners 9
and 3; marine engine room
workers 12 and 6.

Dr. Breslow and the other
epidemiologists emphasized their
unanimous agreement that
cigarette smoking was a prime
cause of lung cancer. But, in
their opinion, certain occupa-
tional hazards could have a
"booster" effect in smokers and
affect non-smokers.