

WRG 000351



To:

L. P. H.

JUL 8 - 1978



SUBJECT

DATE

Reply Message

FOLD-

MESSAGE

Pete - Just thought this would be of interest since it hits hard at sprayed fireproofing and insulation in general. Mr. Ottinger says "there are a number of effective substitutes." I wonder if he has Mono-Plate included in these?

FOLD-

REPLY

SIGNED

DATE OF REPLY

REPLY TO

I am sending a copy of this to Tom, no doubt by now he has a file full of stories like this. Hope we can get our asbestos-free material going before sprayed fireproofing is out-lawed by the government.

SIGNED

Dave

Millions of Americans Exposed to Asbestos Dust

By Congressman Richard L. Ottinger

Congressman Ottinger (D.-N.Y.), serving his third term in House of Representatives, is a member of the Committee on Interstate & Foreign Commerce, and a leader in the battle against air pollution.

Even as you read this, you may be taking into your lungs millions of microscopic particles of an insidious death-dealing substance — a substance proven positively to cause cancer.

This airborne poison is asbestos dust. If you live in one of our large cities, the chances are excellent that you have already inhaled at least a small amount of it.

Asbestos is used in the insulation of our homes, whether we live in a metropolis or a small town, in electrical wiring, in hundreds of products we use in our homes every day.

And each of these uses contributes to the total volume of dust.

A little asbestos is too much, and we in America are now being exposed to a very great deal of it.

Today in the United States we are producing approximately eight times as much asbestos as was produced worldwide in 1935.

A large portion of that increase lurks in our lungs.

Asbestos dust is the only form of air pollution definitely proven to cause cancer in humans, yet thousands of tons of it infest the air of large cities every year.

And it is released into the atmosphere with the knowledge, even the blessings, of city, state and federal governments.

It is used as a fireproofing and insulating material on buildings, particularly those over 25 stories high, in air ducts, floor and ceiling tiles, roofing, siding and pipe.

The most dangerous use, though, is as fireproofing and insulation material at new construction sites.

There are no figures as to how much is actually released into a city's atmosphere each year, but we do know in New York, as an example, tens of thousands of tons of asbestos mix will be sprayed on new buildings during the coming year.

We also know that 50 percent of that asbestos mix will escape into surrounding air where New Yorkers will have no choice but to breathe it.

Buildings over 25 stories are being built, and the chances are



WARNS OF DANGER

Representative Richard L. Ottinger

into your lungs at this very moment.

Asbestos mix is used on every 25-story building in the United States, Canada and in many European cities.

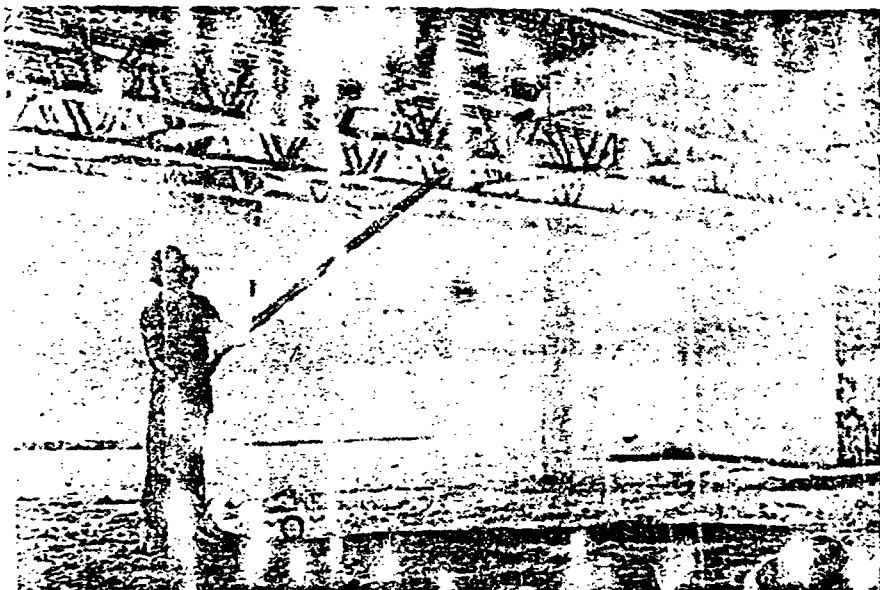
As the evidence mounts, there is growing proof that the consequences are far more serious than we ever guessed.

A New Jersey study recently showed that persons exposed to asbestos dust have a death rate 25 percent above average and an incidence of lung cancer 700 times above average.

Another study, conducted in England, revealed that a person who smokes cigarettes and who is directly exposed to asbestos dust is 92 times more likely to develop lung cancer than a nonsmoker also exposed to the dust.

If the presence of asbestos in the lungs does not cause a cancerous growth, it will very likely cause asbestosis.

Asbestosis scars impair the lungs



DEADLY PARTICLES of asbestos dust float in air as masked construction worker sprays steel framework of new building. Thousands of tons of cancer-causing asbestos dust are added each year to the polluted air of our cities.

verely that they cannot absorb sufficient oxygen.

There is no cure.

A strangling, choking death is the inevitable result.

The evidence is already clear. Topographies performed in three New York hospitals have suggested that 50 percent of the people who live in the city may have cancer-causing particles in their lungs.

This doesn't mean that those bodies exposed had cancer. Exposure to asbestos requires a long time to develop cancer and other lung diseases.

Sometimes it takes as long as 20 years — but you have to be exposed only once!

Asbestos has an infinite existence. A human body will not reject it; it is never broken down by body chemistry.

Every piece of asbestos that enters a body, in any form, will remain there until we die.

A few years ago, Mike Kitzmiller, my legislative aide, was making repairs on his house. Some loose particles of asbestos insulation fell into an open cut on his shoulder.

The cut healed, but a year later a black-looking dark area developed in the scar. Last summer, the area became painful. Tests proved it was malignant. Surgery was necessary to remove the cancer.

Asbestos particles are so small that

they can be seen only with an electron microscope and so light that they will stay suspended in the air — drifting with the winds — for days.

Scientists have only recently developed a technique to measure the concentration in the atmosphere.

Effective control is not possible without federal action. Under the Air Quality Control Act of 1967, the National Air Pollution Control Administration has clear authority and responsibility to set criteria and establish standards.

But the way things stand today, they do not propose to begin any action until 1972.

This is incredible.

Great Britain cracked down on the use of asbestos in the building trades last year and has established strict regulations for spraying of asbestos fireproofing.

We still dawdle.

The spraying of asbestos must be banned immediately.

There are a number of effective substitutes.

Federal authorities must also undertake an immediate and intensive study of the hundreds of uses of asbestos and set strict standards to protect the public health.

Banishment can't wait two years, until 1972.

It must be given the highest priority — now.